



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

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# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

*SECOND PARLIAMENT*

FIRST SESSION

1965-66

## SENATE

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LAGOS

*Senate Debates*

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Senator Alhaji Ahmed A. Metteden.  
Senator D. O. Ibekwe, Minister of State.

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THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

(FORMED BY ALHAJI THE RT. HON. SIR ABUBAKAR TAFAWA BALEWA,  
9TH JANUARY, 1965)

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MINISTER OF TRANSPORT .. .. .	Zanna the hon. Bukar Dipcharima, M.P.
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Parliamentary Debates

[Proclamation]

24 MARCH 1965

[President's Speech]

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IN THE FIRST SESSION OF THE SECOND  
PARLIAMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF  
NIGERIA

WHICH OPENED TWENTY-FOURTH MARCH, 1965

PARLIAMENT OF THE  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 24th March, 1965

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

**A PROCLAMATION**

(Under the Constitution of the Federation)



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

NNAMDI AZIKIWE  
President

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

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

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

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

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

PRAYERS

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

**THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH**

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

**His Excellency was pleased to speak as follows :—**

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

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

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

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

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

## [THE PRESIDENT]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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24 MARCH 1965

[President's Speech]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[THE PRESIDENT]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HIS EXCELLENCY RETIRED FROM THE CHAMBER.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That Parliament do now adjourn.

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

SENATE OF THE FEDERAL  
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 25th March, 1965

The Senate met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

OATH

Oath of Allegiance was administered to the following Senator :—

Oba Adeyinka Oyekan II of Lagos.

BUSINESS STATEMENT

**The Minister of Health and Information** (Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi) : I wish to make the following Business Statement :—

To-day, the Business of the Senate will be devoted to the debate of the Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address.

Tomorrow, the debate on the Motion for an Address will continue, and it is proposed that Senate should adjourn tomorrow the 26th to resume on the 28th of April, so that Senators will go home for both the Moslem and Christian Festivals.

NOTICE OF MOTION  
PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

(MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS)

**Senator Chief J. I. G. Onyia** : I have to move a Motion standing in my name as follows :—

That an humble address be presented to His Excellency, the President, as followeth :

“Your Excellency,

We the Members of the Senate here assembled beg leave to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both Houses of Parliament”.

In moving this Motion I wish to say that the charming personality of the President, his cheerful appearance in wearing a smiling face, and his articulation and enunciation in addressing both Houses do command the attention of his listeners.

In beginning and in ending his Address, the President gave due recognition to the Senate. This example should be followed

in the protocol of inviting Senators to public functions. Hitherto Senators take back seats. Even in the parking of cars, while some people are given labels of “A”, the Senators are given labels of “B” or sometimes “C”, and one finds that even our civil servants take precedence over the Senators. That is very derogatory.

Non-alignment policy prohibits us from taking sides in the domestic squabbles or any civil war in any foreign nation. It is heartening that despite Ghana's mischievous propaganda arising from jealousy, Nigeria has not involved herself in the civil war going on in the Congo. It is laudable that Nigeria will continue to work for understanding and friendship among all nations without regard to colour, race, or religion.

But charity begins at home. We should see to it that all the Regions in Nigeria work for understanding and friendship without regard to tribe, clan, or religion. I must repeat what I said last year and which subsequently appeared in my Private Member's Motion which lapsed. In order to remove our points of disagreement and promote unity among Nigerian communities, or Government should enact a law against tribal discrimination and incitement. I fail totally to understand how a showdown between the North and the South, or between Northern and Southern communities, as described by some leaders, can promote good relationship among our people. There is only one Nigeria, and not two, whether some of her citizens are in the Northern Region, or the Eastern Region, or the Mid-Western Region, or the Western Region, or the Federal Territory of Lagos.

We are all one and all citizens of Nigeria belong to one family. We should not allow family bickerings to precipitate a crisis which will bring about the destruction of our people and property indiscriminately.

Nigerian citizens from any Region should settle and live in peace anywhere in this country. We see this happening in the urban areas and it is only politicians hankering for power—worldly power—who are trying to disturb the peace and tranquillity of this country and the good relationship between the various tribes living together in the urban areas. We must guard carefully against allowing these people to disturb our peace and tranquillity.

I said here before that in my home-town, Asaba, there are Northerners and other people who have lived there for over sixty years and they are in good relationship with the inhabitants. We would not like to hear that there is any sort of discrimination between the Southerners and the Northerners there. There is a show-down between the Northerners and the Southerners simply because we are looking for power. Equilibrium and tranquillity should be allowed to reign in this country. We should not carry our domestic disagreements to the extent that it will ruin the best we have.

It is very regrettable to learn that our Prime Minister's car was stoned yesterday. What has this God-given and godly man done to anybody to warrant such a treatment? It is a great shame indeed. Even when compelled for a show-down, God forbid we should avoid causing indiscriminate damage, because it is easier to destroy than to build.

The Inland Waterways in Onitsha is performing a herculian task in trying to cope with the congestion of vehicles particularly over the Asaba side of the Niger. Day in and day out, one finds vehicles queuing up to about a quarter of a mile from the wharf, waiting to be toed across the river and sometimes these lorries and cars remain in Asaba for over a week. We know that the workers are doing their best, working day and night to cope with the task, but they are disabled by the fact that the engines of the ferry-boats are out of working order every now and again. Sometimes they go out of working order in the middle of the water. I do not know what is wrong; it may either be that the Nigerian Government purchases bad engines or that the maintenance is poor. The Government should look into this very carefully.

The inefficiency of the Posts and Telegraphs Department in transmitting messages is now a proverbial wisdom. I say no more than what I have said for it is said that a word is enough for the wise.

It is note-worthy that our Government will undertake a thorough revision of the contents of education in our schools at all levels. At the same time, it should promote a uniform system and standard throughout the country. It is very ridiculous to find that as one crosses from one Region to another, one is absolutely

ignorant of the standard of education of the people there. I hope that the Federal Government will take note of this and do something about it.

The activities of the Provisional Council of the University of Lagos must be looked into carefully. A Commission of Inquiry should be set up immediately to probe the activities of the Provisional Council of the University of Lagos. The Council proposed Dr Eni Njoku as Vice-Chancellor in the draft Bill which was submitted to us here during the last sitting, but later appointed Dr Biobaku for the same post. This is nothing short of precipitating a clash between two intellectual giants we have in Nigeria, and it is wicked of those who try to precipitate a crisis of this nature in this country. We have many learned gentlemen who should be encouraged to be in good relationship, and why knock their heads together?

Why disturb the academic freedom of the University? Is that the way we are going to build the nation? It is very painful indeed. I presume that the Bill which was submitted to us at the last sitting will have to be debated and the Provisional Council will have to tell us why, if that Bill is going to be passed, the name of the Vice-Chancellor proposed in that Bill should be deleted and another one substituted. So, this matter has got to be dealt with and—

**The Minister of Health and Information** (Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi): On a point of order, Mr President, there was no such Bill before the Senate. What I think the Senator is referring to is a report of the activities of the Provisional Council. Certainly it is not a Bill.

**Senator Chief Onyia**: It is a report of a proposal to put a Bill before Parliament. It was to be brought for enactment in the Parliament, and I do not know whether it was to come up as a Bill. Thank you.

Our farm settlements which detach the young farmers from their homes should not be exclusively encouraged. I repeat, farm settlements which detach our youngmen in the country from their beloved homes should not be encouraged exclusively. School-leavers' farms which have just started in Mid-Western Nigeria are in accord with and an improvement in our traditional system of farming and should be looked into very carefully.



[SENATOR CHIEF ONYIA]

In conclusion, I pray that the Almighty God may guide and guard the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

I beg to move.

**Senator Rev. A. M. Olaleye :** I rise to second the Motion. The President's Speech outlines very clearly and intelligently workable schemes for the country's development. The Speech from the Throne depicts comprehensive and intensive work and if followed with devotion will yield great dividends. The President's Speech needs to be studied with very great care and attention.

The President emphasised that the Government will vigorously continue in our non-aligned policy in foreign relations, and that friendly and constitutional relations and industrial relationship with other African States will be pursued so as to strengthen African Unity. If the Federal Government follows the suggestions as enunciated by the President, it will not be long before peace and prosperity are ushered into our nation: a place where everybody will have equal opportunity to work together so that the nation will grow smoothly.

The President also emphasised the Government's desire to work relentlessly towards the solution of the existing crucial problems facing the United Nations Organisations. We need to work together so that all the proposals made by the President will come to fruition. But in all these things we have to start with ourselves before we can have international relationship with other countries. Each individual must have mutual relationship with God first whether that individual be Muslim, Christian or even pagan. Also, there must be that sense of dynamism inculcated in everyone of us. There must also be spiritual reorientation before material reorientation come along.

The President also emphasised a well-planned, well-balanced scheme for development prompted by sincerity and urge. With the building of the Nigerian Air Force Training School at Oshogbo in Western Nigeria, local production of arms and ammunition, better training facilities will be made available to the Armed Forces to ensure that they are trained with the most up-to-date equipments in the world.

The President also said that plans are in hand for the expansion of the services of the

Inland Waterways Warri dockyard, and that up-to-date Merchant Shipping Regulations to meet international standards will also be placed before Parliament. He also said that legislation will be introduced to convert the Posts and Telegraphs into a quasi-commercial organisation to promote our industrial and commercial activities.

Our President also emphasised in his Speech further intensification of research—geological, tin-mining, petroleum, veterinary—to ascertain the unknown mineral resources of the country. Furthermore, he emphasised the revision of the content of education at all levels with the objective of relating it to our economic, cultural and social requirements of the country. Education is paedocentric; the child is in the centre of education, and when the content of our education is revised, I sincerely think that all of us will be able to come together and our young people will be trained so that they will be able to take their rightful places in the nation.

The President also suggested a National Educational Resource Centre which will be run on behalf of the Ministries of Education of the whole country. He does not knock out the idea that Voluntary Agencies will be allowed to run adult classes so that those people who are willing to develop themselves might avail themselves of the opportunity to do so.

Special programmes will be pursued for the eradication and control of diseases such as small pox and other dangerous diseases.

The Nigerian Law School, he pointed out, will be found a permanent home on the Victoria Island.

He also emphasised the implementation of the agreement reached by the recommendations of the Morgan Commission aimed at strengthening the employer-labour relations and ensuring industrial peace and harmony which are essential to the orderly development of our national economy.

Special attention, the President emphasised, will be given to the problems of adoption of children and juvenile delinquency and beggary.

Encouragement will also be given to foreign investors, the President said, so that they will be able to come and help us in our development, and that we will be able to work together in harmony.

In conclusion, I would like to say that this great speech of our President needs a careful study. If we go through it line by line it contains a great deal. In my conviction if all the things mentioned in the Speech are implemented, I know, through the grace of God, an utopian era will be ushered into our nation—Nigeria. It is my sincere prayer and desire that we may all continue to lead our nation ahead.

10.33 a.m.

**Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku :** I associate myself with the Motion.

I would, in the first instance, proceed to remark on those things which I consider are missing in the great Speech. I would have thought that we should have learnt our lessons from what happened in this country of late. I would have thought also that the President would not be silent on what I consider could affect the maintenance and the upkeeping of the unification of this great republic.

Incidents subsequent to the election should be worthy of mention in this great Speech from the Throne and the way out should have been suggested as to what was going to be the policy of the Government to make sure that in future such incidents would not occur. I do not refer to the Constitutional issues alone. As far as the Constitutional issues are concerned, there is a paragraph in the great Speech to the effect that the Constitution will soon undergo a review. God will guide us when the time comes.

I have in mind the bitterness which was engendered during the election; I have in mind the application of thuggery as a means of propaganda and threat to human-life and property during the election, I also have in mind how every politician pursued his legal and lawful way of life in an atmosphere of intimidation.

I feel that if such situation should continue in this country there would be very few who are able to undertake the burden of the nation upon themselves. I should have thought that the President would point to this great slap on our liberty. In my opinion thuggery in this country should be legislated against and it should be made an offence next in rank to murder and manslaughter because it is exactly

what it is. Elections are still pending in other parts of the country. Are we going through the elections in this atmosphere of intimidation?

I want to refer to the question of the University of Lagos Provisional Council. I should think that as elder statesmen when we come here, we come here with a clean paper and an open mind to examine all problems objectively in the interest of the country; not minding who may be affected.

As Dr Azikiwe our President has always said, "it is not who is right but what is right." Is it right for any group of people whether they are Professors, Deans, Masters or students to spark off trouble merely on the decision of the Provisional Council? Is there no other way? Are we going to encourage people to keep on challenging the decisions of institutions and organisations which we have set up in this country? If we allow it, we ourselves may one day, find people rushing on us and beating all of us up, as a result of our decision here.

*Senator Chief Onyia rose on a point of order.*

**The President :** There is no point of order.

**Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku :** The Provisional Council of the University of Lagos may be wrong in its decision. But it is our duty to tell the nation what we want our people to be. We want the future generation to be people who will respect law and order and the legitimate and legal decision of any institution which we have set up in this country; that is what we want to see obtaining in this country. It will be wrong for us here, in the Senate to say, "You boys who sparked off the trouble, you are the good boys of the nation; we give you the shield." We had better be silent on it. I am happy that the matter is almost resolved. We have learnt our lessons as a nation and we shall continue to do so.

**Senator Chief J. I. G. Onyia :** On a point of order, nobody has actually—

**The President :** That is no point of order. Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku should proceed.

**Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku :** Now, another point which is missing is this incident which we may consider to be minor but which is of great significance in Ghana. The attack

[SENATOR CHIEF FAGBENRO-BEYIOKU]

on the Nigerian Embassy in Ghana is something which the Senate must have to speak on, otherwise this is the beginning.

In the past either rightly or wrongly, there were people who felt that the relationship between Nigeria and Ghana had not been quite cordial. Whether we are right in that observation or not, we do not know, but for the Nigerian Embassy in Ghana to be attacked and for the Nigerian Government to say, "well, we brush it off with the hand," and say nothing more about it, does not augur well for the future, as it is pretty certain that our Embassies, Ambassadors, and High Commissioners in other parts of Africa where people may hold some opinion contrary to what we hold, will not be safe.

I know very well that the Ministry of External Affairs is having this matter in hand, but we want the Ministry to know how strongly we feel about this matter. The Ministry should pursue this matter with all vigour so as to be able to obtain for us a convincing and satisfactory apology from Ghana.

Going through the President's Speech, I am very happy that the Posts and Telegraphs may be converted into a quasi-commercial organisation; that is good. We must learn by our mistakes and we must learn from what now obtains. I feel happy because nobody is satisfied with the performances of our postal and telephone systems as well as the telegraph system in this country. At times you send a telegram from Lagos and by the time you get to Ibadan a day after, you will be the very person to receive the telegram yourself.

In England or in other parts of Europe, as soon as you lift up your receiver, within three minutes, you are talking to a friend one thousand miles away. But in Lagos, you can not talk to a friend at Ikeja without experiencing five or six hours delay.

If, by converting the Posts and Telegraphs into a quasi-commercial organisation, all these anomalies are going to be removed, I would say, 'thank God'. But if this is going to be the start of giving regularity to this irregularised system, I will not associate myself with it.

I also do hope that by the time this organisation gets a footing, it would not be of the same

pattern as the controversial Railway Corporation we now have.

I am inclined to think that, of all the Corporations we have at the moment, the Nigerian Ports Authority is about the best, and the only one which speaks for itself. What may be responsible for this I do not know.

In his speech, our great President referred to training institutions. There are several training institutions in this country either connected with industries or with trade centres or schools of technology and things like that. I think very strong a question will soon be filed in this House to ask for the progress reports on these institutions and to how the children and young men turned out by these institutions are absorbed into gainful employments.

I feel at this stage like recommending that there should be some sort of National Selection Committee to take charge of intakes into these institutions, because as a people, we have not been fair to ourselves, and it is time we trained ourselves to be fair with ourselves.

I am very happy to note that we are also going to promote a programme of curriculum development. I am very happy indeed about that. On several occasions, I spoke about this and I even referred to my school days in my *alma mater*—the Eko Boys High School where progress was fast and people did not have to drag unnecessarily in their academic career. It is out of date for a child to take twelve, thirteen or even eighteen years to go through elementary and secondary education. I think it was one of the inventions of one of our great men who is now dead. School curriculum was not as slow as it is at the moment. I would ask that the review of our school curriculum should be expedited.

Again, a proper review should be made of the free school systems we have in this country. I do not think that this free school system is really helping the country. It is not helping at all. Most of the products of these free schools are not really up to the standard expected of them. Teachers no longer take keen interest in the education of the young ones as they are expected to do.

In the first year of a free school, you go to standard one and whether you pass or fail you are moved to standard two. From

standard two, you proceed to standard three, whether you pass or fail. In the same fashion, these students go through standards four, five and six; but as soon as they take an entrance examination for admission into a secondary school, they fail simply because their background was faulty. I feel it is time we looked very carefully into this, otherwise we shall be producing half-baked students. I know that my hon. Friend, Senator J. K. Nzerem, who is a very keen school-master, will help on this matter.

There is one thing which we in Lagos, and not only in Lagos, but also in some other parts of the country, enjoy, that is, after school, the children have the opportunity of going to private lessons. It is not only the instructions that they receive in school which can help them in their studies. When I was a small boy, it was my habit after getting home from school, to take my meals and go to a private lesson, where I had a further "brushing-up"

At the present time, however, Government has made it an offence for anybody to run a private lesson. Where you have eight or ten pupils in your lesson, the law will pounce upon you, and you are tossed into jail. This sad situation is affecting the training and the education of our children.

I maintain that, with all the best intention, the instructions you receive from a school alone cannot help you. You need somebody to help you.

On the six-year Development Programme, I think the Senate will file a question asking for the progress which has so far been made. We all have to congratulate our Government on this issue. We know certain schemes like the Niger Dam and other projects are really going on, but we must be able to have a factual report so as to be able to assess the accuracy of the opinions we have formed.

Last year, I think during the Budget Meeting, I suggested that agriculture should be made a federal subject and I still stand by that suggestion. Nigeria is predominantly an agricultural country. The President himself in his speech admitted that agriculture plays a great if not the most essential part of our economic system.

I know very well that the Regional Governments are doing excellently well in the pursuit of their agricultural programme, but these programmes must have to be financed heavily, and in most cases the Regional Governments are not sufficiently financially equipped as to finance the agricultural programmes they have on hand. I am still suggesting that agriculture should be made a federal subject.

I remember that the Minister of Economic Development in reply to my suggestion last year, appeared to fall in line with me, but it would appear nobody wants to take away from the Regional Governments that which they now have.

I would not like to take up the time of the Senate since the Budget is still to be debated, and by then we shall have another opportunity of raising these several points, but I want to say that I am very glad that the Merchant Shipping Act will be reviewed. It is something in which I am very much interested. When the time comes, we shall have to think of the position of people like the pilots.

The manufacture of drugs will also interest me. There is one point I wish to make and I am sure that the Minister of Health will be of assistance here; this point is that we would like Government to remove whatever bias they have for native drugs and mediciner.

We Nigerians are ourselves experts in the manufacture of our own medicines. When some of these medicines are manufactured, opportunity should be given to the herbalist-manufacturers to send their medicines to the laboratory for examination and advice.

Our medical practitioners should not approach locally manufactured medicines with a biased mind, saying that since these medicines are not produced by doctors or pharmacists like ourselves, no thought should be given to them.

After all, I think that on matters of African herbs, leaves and other medicaments, these people who are natives are the experts. I would, therefore be very glad to see that opportunities are given to these native manufacturers for their productions to be examined and advice given to them on modern basis.

I beg to support.

**Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba :** Our President, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe is a Northerner by birth ; an Easterner by origin ; a Lagosian by abode and a Westerner as well as a Mid-Westerner by virtue of his high office. So it is childish and malicious for any region or tribe much less, therefore, any political party to lay any exclusive claim on our President as their personal belonging.

To come back to the main speech, the Federal Government's achievement in various fields last year should be described even by critics as remarkable and tremendous.

This year's Presidential Address is unique, Mr President, as it contains bold and impressive proposals which if and when carefully and properly implemented will make the Government maintain a sound economy and a sound financial position.

Now, Mr President, if Britain, our former master could tighten immigration into Britain from Commonwealth countries, I do not see why immigration into this country should not be more tightly controlled. We have had enough of our tribal conflicts and so we should not invite racial problems into our country. I do not advocate our repatriating those who are already in the country but if they would voluntarily go back to their own countries so much the better.

I always like to give a warning or make an appeal in my speech. Nigeria is being looked upon from outside as a great factor to reckon with in the bid for a lasting world peace. Whether her enemies like it or not, Nigeria will give Africa the leadership required of her. But are we ourselves united? Can we form a formidable front? Nigeria is now a land of brigades. I quite agree that as a matter of urgency, legislation should be introduced against tribalism and against all brigades.

It is a pity and may I say, a shame, that our political leaders allow their names to be used in connection with these brigades which are nothing but a collection of thugs and hooligans. These young people have undertaken to over-ride constituted authorities and so they should all be banned. No sacrifice is too big if it is to keep the country's unity and prestige intact.

This is the second Nigerian Parliament after independence, so we have to sort out our differences and start afresh and give all the necessary co-operation to our broadly-based Government.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief J. M. Egbuson :** I rise to support all the nice things that have been said about our President, to his person and to his office. I want to go straight ahead to say something about the unity of this country. Too much cannot be said about the importance and value of peace, unity and stability in this country. It appears, however, that much lip-service only is being done, for every day we read and hear about the appointment of Parliamentary Secretaries. Why do we still attach an N.P.C. Parliamentary Secretary to an N.P.C. Minister ; an N.C.N.C. Parliamentary Secretary to an N.C.N.C. Minister *et cetera*. We even notice this in the national or broad-based Government which we are just forming.

In this national or broadbased government, we expect to see round pegs in round holes. It is but fair that a medical brain should be in charge of the Ministry of Health. I am not advocating that I should be made Minister for Police Affairs ! No less than a legal chief should hold the portfolio of Justice and Attorney-General, and so on. But I urge the Prime Minister to search for the right talents for each of the Ministries.

On the unity and peace of the country, I would urge that the Regional Attorneys-General—

**The President :** Will the Senator attempt to address the Chair and not appear to be reading his speech.

**Senator Chief Egbuson :** I would like to say something about our Ministers. It is my considered view that our Ministers earn too much, no matter how arduous their task may be. At present a Minister earns about £3,000, has a free and fully-furnished house, a paid gardner, free telephone which he uses for his own unofficial business or a business which is official to him only. He is also entitled to car advance, basic allowance as well as mileage allowance. On top of that, he has a number of Ministry cars at his disposal—beautiful

cars that cost the country so much money to buy, to keep and maintain—with uniformed drivers, free of charge also.—

**Senator M. G. Ejaife :** On a point of order, this is not contained in the Speech of the President.

**The President :** This is quite relevant to national economy and these are the things contained in the President's Speech.

**Senator Chief Egbuson :** The Ministry cars are best used on bad roads because the damage to them is nobody's business.

The Ministers are given Federal Government Police Orderlies.

**The President :** Does the Senator mean that the Ministers deliberately create bad roads for themselves?

**Senator Chief Egbuson :** If a Minister has to go on a bad road he would rather use a Ministry car than his personal one.

**The Minister of Health and Information** (Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi): On a point of order, Mr President, I think it will help the Senators very much indeed if the Senator who is speaking will be factual. I think there is a limit to how far one could allow one's imagination to run. Definitely, it is most improper that the Ministers should be deliberately accused of using Government vehicles on bad roads.

**The President :** I think the Senator should adhere to the advice a little bit.

**Senator Chief Egbuson :** I hear a Senator talk about brigades. I shall come to that soon.

I do not know if this country has got to the stage where Ministers should be guarded by armed policemen. Have we really come to that stage in this country? This is a peaceful country. We are not in any state of emergency and there is no war. If Ministers think that they are not safe—

**The President :** You are not properly informed on this matter. That was why the Minister of Health said you should be a little bit more factual. When you mention things and people directly like this, it is good to be a little bit more factual and well-informed. Arming of Ministers took place during the last

crisis but the arms have been withdrawn except in certain cases. You are not properly informed.

**Senator Chief Egbuson :** Up to the time I came into Lagos and stayed inside Lagos I had seen Police Orderlies armed.

This brings me to the next question about thugs and brigades. No matter how we condemn these bodies, they are being formed daily. Nowadays we hear about this and that brigade named after a renowned politician. What are the functions and aims of these brigades? What is the object of recruiting them? Who finances them, and why in the name of unity do we allow individuals to own and maintain private armies? It is my humble view that the time has come for legislation to be brought to disband them and pronounce them illegal bodies, and thereby stop the formation of new ones in whatever names they may be formed. There are the Federal Police who are capable enough to look after investigation of crimes, prosecution of offenders and the maintenance of law and order.

I associate myself with what has been said about the position of Senators. Senators are said to be fathers of the nation; the Senate is the Upper House or the House of Lords. If this is not just paying lip service, I would like to ask if we have, in fact, been treated as such. People have referred to Senators as "rubber stamps", no doubt, because they know we are shabbily treated. We are certainly not accorded the honour, dignity or even the perquisites due to us. Unless we are to be told that we as fathers and elders need no good food, sufficient food or shelter.

**Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku :**

On a point of order. Order 26 (1) states :—

*"A Senator shall not read his speech, but he may read short extracts from books or papers in support of his argument, and may refresh his memory by reference to notes".*

It appears that the Senator continues to read his speech and is not ready to address this House.

**The President :** I did not see him reading.

**Senator Chief Egbuson :** I expect that as matured statesmen, Senators should be picked for discussing important matters affecting the destiny of this country, for you can be assured

[SENATOR CHIEF EGBUSON]

that Senators will discharge their duties without ill-will or affection, without tribalism or regionalism being brought to bear. Just look at this Senate building. It is as hot as a coal-mine. The air-conditioner—if any had been installed—is not functioning. It has been so since last year. I am compelled to take away my hat because of the heat here.

**The President :** I would suggest that the Senator also takes off his woollen overcoat !

**Senator Chief Egbuson :** I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Clerk of the Parliaments on his recent promotion to a substantive rank. He is indeed well-suited for this job. In this Parliament so many dignitaries come in and go out. He is the most patient individual I have met in my life and he is very suitable for this job because I believe he understands and speaks all the languages of the people here. I have heard him speaking Hausa to Hausas as if he were an Hausa man. I have also heard him speaking Ibo to Ibos very fluently. He is never ruffled. I have heard him speaking Yoruba. It is difficult to know what tribe he belongs to. This is the sort of man we want in this country. I am sure that with the creation of the fourth Region, he will soon begin to speak a language of the Mid-West. He has a team of staff who are very good and tolerant. Everybody going to them considers himself a big man and they treat him fairly and kindly. Some of us are just finding our way and they are always glad to be of assistance.

I will say something regarding the much-advertised amendment to our Constitution. During the recent constitutional crisis, there were talks, suggestions and even speculations that the Constitution might come in for amendment. The same was true of the census controversy, but so far nothing has been done. I call upon those responsible to set in motion the machinery for this. The present Constitution, some say, was drafted with the influence of the British Government. Now we are a Republic and the time has come for us to take the bull by the horns and amend the Constitution to our liking. In this, the following should not be left out : future census, election, equal allocation of seats to the Regions, creation of more states, disbanding or fusion of Local Government or Regional Police Forces into the Nigeria Police Force.

Now, this brings me to the youngest Region of our Federation, the Mid-Western Region. This has come to stay. It is the fourth in the Federation, the youngest and the smallest, but, nevertheless, a Region of its own, equal in honour and status with the other Regions. We thank all those especially, the Federal Government under the able leadership of our God-fearing Prime Minister, for making its creation possible. No Region however can thrive without help from the other Regions of the Federation, and unless other aspirants are to be discouraged from agitating for their own Region in the future, I think the Mid-Western Region deserves the sympathy of the Federal Government. As a bird can best fly with both wings, I sincerely hope that the Federal Government will help the Region. For instance, in the Six-Year Development Plan, I feel sure that at the time when the Programme was drawn up the Mid-Western Region was not considered as a Region. It was part and parcel of the Western Region. But it is not too late for industries or whatever help that can be afforded to the Mid-Western Region to be inserted in this Programme of Development.

I move on now to roads and bridges. Often times we hear of accidents—dangerous and fatal accidents—occurring at level crossings. It is my humble view that the time has come for us to have separate roads for trains and motor vehicles. There is no reason why, when a motor-car or lorry comes to a level crossing, the gate should be shut for the train to pass. In the heart of Lagos this is very common by day and by night. Cars have to queue up for a long time. I remember some time ago in April last our Prime Minister was due to go and inspect the Ports Authority in Port Harcourt at the water-side. There was a time schedule for him to arrive there, but he was held up at the Airport for a short time so that when the Prime Minister's motorcade arrived at the level-crossing the railway authorities shut the gate and our Prime Minister could not pass. We had to wait with all the Police escort. Everybody had to wait to please "Mr Train" to pass before our Prime Minister could. I think that is a great shame indeed. Maybe it was rectified in Port Harcourt because it happened to our Prime Minister, but what about the main roads everywhere in this country? I think the time has come when we should have over-head bridges for the lorry

or the car to go on top of the railway line or the train to go on top and the motor-car and the pedestrians can pass underneath.

Allow me to say something about strikes in this country. They have done innumerable damage to this country. Strikers have always won. Unfortunately, the Government is aware that cost of living is going up everyday; prices are soaring high. Amenities and concessions are granted to various grades and types of workers. These concessions do not appear to affect pensioners. Does the Government expect pensioners to go on strike before their pensions are increased? Certainly, pensioners can go on strike. They can refuse their paltry pensions. I am sure it is the Government's duty to look into the position of the pensioners and not to wait for them to call on the Government or anything of the sort.

Why are pensioners not paid on the basis on which other workers are paid? I do not know. Is it because it is feared that pensioners may die before the month ends? Do pensioners die before men on active service? Death is not nearer at the door of pensioners than that of men on active service. Men on active service die also.

What happens now is that when pensioners go to draw their pensions they are being asked to sign certificates that they are still alive. I think that is very disgraceful for someone to sign a certificate when one wants to earn one's salary by declaring that it should be noted that one is alive on that day. It is obnoxious and very belittling indeed, and I think it is the colonial mentality which should be scrapped in this our Republic of to-day.

Let me go on to Education generally. There is much advocacy for the federalisation of Education throughout the country. I think it is proper and necessary that something should be done, otherwise there may be grading of school leaving certificates or classwork in the Regions. In other words, with all the unity that we aim at in this country, if one should attend a school in the West and should go to the East for employment the Eastern Region Government or whoever is about to employ one might say that the certificate was issued in the West and not as good as the certificate in the East, and so one is thrown out of employment.

In view of this situation the country will cry out aloud that because one is from the West one has not been given a job in the East. That

is not so. I think this is one of the things to be removed. When this anomaly is removed, it will make us free to think that we are all members of one country, all children of one home.

Cost of schooling is becoming unnecessarily too high. School headmasters and principals are responsible for some of the things. They change the textbooks because they will not take the trouble to teach. They change textbooks every year. Sometimes they prescribe books that are not obtainable in the country, and people have to go in search of them. If one does not get them in one's town one has to look for them in other parts of the Region.

**Senator A. E. Ukattah :** On a point of information, textbooks are not prescribed by teachers but by proprietors.

**Senator Chief Egbuson :** There is no doubt that principals and headmasters have something to say about it. I am sure they make their suggestions to whoever is responsible.

I now speak on school uniforms. Every school has a different uniform. I agree that something should be done to differentiate one school from another school, but each school aims at the most expensive material for their uniform. If they prescribe sandals they make sure that they are Clarke's Sandals, which are the costliest sandals on the market. I do not know if they enter into a bargain with people who manufacture Clarke's Sandals. But why should they advocate that parents should buy one particular footwear for their school children?

**The President :** It might be they want the shoe that would last long.

**Senator Chief Egbuson :** We in this country are very proud of our teeth, and I still have the very teeth which I grew up with in my mouth.

**The President :** Will the Senator observe the rule of not imputing improper motives. When the Senator mentions names or institutions, or individuals, it is very dangerous to impute improper motives, and it is forbidden by Standing Orders.

**Senator Chief Egbuson :** Schools now sort of forbid children from using our chewing sticks. They press that they must use tooth brushes and tooth paste, and this is even more so in boarding schools.



[SENATOR CHIEF EGBUSON]

Many of us will agree that teachers are no longer interested in their work. While in the classrooms they study to pass the next examination or prepare to get employment in a Government department.

Moral instructions are not now being taught in schools, and this is a pity. I think that is the thing that we want most in this country to-day.

Talking about the Posts and Telegraphs service, I think it is well-known that that service in this country is not as good as it should be despite the fact that transport and communications are very important, particularly to the Police. As this service cannot help the police very much in their work, I do hope that the Police in every formation will be properly equipped with better transport and wireless equipment so as to enable them carry out their onerous duty of tracking down criminals.

On the Federal Prisons, it is my humble view that the time has come for all prisons in the country to be taken over by the Federal Government. At the moment we have N.A. Prisons or the Local Government Prisons. There is no reason why the Federal Government should not take over all and administer them. We cannot say that because we have a Regional Police Force, a convicted man must also be looked after by a Region. He can be looked after by the Federal Government with better effect.

I am very happy to note the great improvement being made by the Prisons Department under its first Nigerian Director. He spares no effort in going round and seeing things for himself and in providing amenities for the welfare of the rank and file in the Department by putting up big new quarters, founding clubs, providing entertainment, and improving the work of the Prisons generally. That Department and the Police should always engage the attention of the Federal Government in order to prevent discontentment, so that they do not at any time feel dissatisfied and do their work inefficiently.

I beg to support the Motion ably moved.

**Senator A. E. Ukattah :** In contributing to the Motion of Thanks, I wish to say how happy we Senators are to welcome His Highness the Oba of Lagos, the Lagos City Council's

President. Senators, however, will all agree that at our last Meeting here we expected him. His absence was conspicuous. It appeared then that the ceremony connected with his installation had not been concluded. We are happy to-day to have him here, and we welcome him wholeheartedly. I wish to say that his predecessor was a father to us all. We enjoyed our association with him, and, with those of us from the Regions coming to this place, every time we were here we were within his territory. We had a right to expect his protection, and he had the right to expect our loyalty. We promised him that.

Turning to the Speech of the President, I wish to say that those of us in Nigeria, we Nigerians, are really blessed to have somebody of the calibre of Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe as the President of this Federal Republic.

When I was in London during my last visit there I met one of the very senior administrative officers who had retired from service in Nigeria and during our conversation he asked about Dr Azikiwe. He said he heard that Dr Azikiwe was the President of the Federation of Nigeria and I told him that was true.

Among many other things he said was that in his own opinion he thought that Dr Azikiwe was a nationalist and a patriot of the first order. He also said that he did not think that any national office of honour and dignity could ever be too high for him. That was the opinion of a friend many thousands of miles away and I think we are really blessed to have Dr Azikiwe to pilot our ship of State.

The contribution he made towards our political emancipation during the days when he was in active politics has carved out a niche for him in the history of this country and his contribution constitutes a rich legacy to posterity and for this contribution I think we should always remain grateful to him.

Now, as the President of this country, he certainly may have moments of unpleasantness and, in fact, in recent days, there have been trying moments for him. This is, however, true of every other nation and we are blessed in that, guided by providence, he has always brought his own sagacity into full play and the difficulties we have had have been resolved temporarily, if not permanently. I think it is

the wish of us all that this great and illustrious son of Nigeria should live long enough to continue to guide this country.

Coming to the Speech itself, I should like to say that the Speech is replete with promises. I have known these promises for a long time now, but I have no doubt that these promises will see fulfilment within the next twelve months. There should not be that official jargon "as soon as possible". I hope all these promises will be fulfilled within the period stipulated.

I will not, therefore, have to go into those points, but I would like to touch on some other points as embodied in the Speech of His Excellency.

I beg your indulgence, Mr President, to read a portion of His Excellency's Speech on which I would like to make some comments. His Excellency said, and I quote—

*"Our policy in Africa will be to maintain friendly relations with other African States".*

I share the view expressed here by His Excellency, but in maintaining these friendly relations, I say that it must not be at all costs. Recently, there have been instances where certain countries, taken to be friends and because of our desire to remain friendly, have regarded our attitude of friendliness as a weakness.

Sometime last October, there was a disgraceful incident which occurred here in Lagos. This incident took place on the occasion of the visit of the Israel Foreign Minister. The wife of an Arab Ambassador here organised a demonstration against the visit of this Minister. I was not satisfied with the step taken by the Government; in fact, the Government did nothing about that incident, but I thought that was an insult to the sovereignty of this nation.

Why should any outside country come to dictate to us who should be our visitor? Any legitimate visitor to this country has a right to expect the protection of the Government of this country and I do not think that protection was given to this Minister, otherwise that demonstration could not have taken place.

People who would like to quarrel should go back to their own countries and quarrel there. Quarrels are best had in ones' own country.

Why should nationals of other countries come here to turn Nigeria into a battle field? A stern measure should have been taken and those demonstrators should have been chased right down to Tarkwa Bay. They should have been kept there until a helicopter or whatever thing they had could go and pick them up. Therefore, while I agree that we should remain on friendly relations with other States, it must not be at the expense of our own sovereignty, otherwise this will be taken to mean weakness.

I hope that the type of incident I have referred to will not recur in this country. I say again that the Government should be firmer when next this type of thing happens. We were, however, disappointed that the step which the Government had taken did not in any way reflect the volume of indignation which that incident had aroused in the minds of the people of this country.

Now, I go next to another incident which occurred as a result of our trying to maintain friendly relations with our neighbours. For quite along time now Ghana has been pointing accusing fingers at Nigeria.

Our football players have on several occasions been beaten up in Ghana. Our traders and other Nigerians living in Ghana have been manhandled and called all sorts of names. Nigeria has been called a big-for-nothing country all because we like to be friendly with Ghana.

The culminating point was the silly demonstration organised against our High Commissioner in Ghana a couple of weeks ago. To my mind, that demonstration should be the last straw that has broken the camel's back; that demonstration should be the last. I think that the saturation point has been reached and this should be the time to act. I do not think that we have anything to lose by breaking ties with Ghana.

In saying this however, I would not for a moment suggest that the whole Federal Republic of Nigeria should face Ghana. That would be very humiliating indeed and it would appear as if we are asking that a cow should go and measure her strength with that of an ostrich. It will be doing too much honour to Ghana to say that the whole of Nigeria should face her.

[SENATOR UKATTAH]

My suggestion, therefore, is that we should effect some legislation here, now if possible, to give the youngest region in this country—the Mid-West—the necessary powers and material to deal with Ghana. I cannot even suggest that anyone of the older regions should come in, but I ask that the Mid-West should be set in motion to grapple with Ghana. That will show Ghana that it is nothing. I do not think that the whole of Nigeria need be worried about Ghana and all I say is that we should break all ties with Ghana. I do not think that we are going to gain anything from maintaining friendly relations with Ghana.

What are we going to gain from a country that has quarrelled with all her neighbours: with Togo, with Dahomey, Upper Volta, with every country in the continent? What are we going to gain from Ghana, a country that has proved to be the training ground for subversion of all sorts and confusion?

What are we going to gain from a country whose President has proved to be god-father of all rebels in Africa? What are we going to gain from Ghana whose detention camps have swallowed more human bones than all the graves of the world?

We are going to take a stern measure against Ghana. The time has come when the demonstrations of a couple of weeks ago organised in Ghana should be the last straw that breaks the camel's back.

**A Senator:** I regard this statement as a sort of political jingoism.

**The President:** That is not a point of order.

**Senator Ukattah:** I am happy that the Senator has been told that that is a point of disorder.

So, while we should maintain friendly relations with other countries within Africa and the world, these relations should not be at all costs. We must be a friend to those countries that like to reciprocate; that show respect for our sovereignty and for the people of Nigeria.

I wish to say a few words on the expansion of the drug manufacturing laboratory at Yaba. I am happy that the Minister of Health has at last done something about this.

Some time last year I advocated the establishment of a pharmaceutical industry in order to make full use of our pharmacists. This is a step towards realising that desire. I do not think it is sufficient to expand the laboratory at Yaba alone. I think that a bolder step should be taken to establish a drug manufacturing laboratory at the various regional headquarters in collaboration with the Ministries of Health of the various regions. This, I think, is necessary in view of the fact that the number of hospitals we have in the country is now rapidly increasing, and the drugs required in these hospitals, if manufactured in Nigeria, would be cheaper. I hope that the Minister of Health will be able to present a bolder plan to ensure that in each of the regional capitals a drug manufacturing laboratory is established apart from expanding the one at Yaba.

The next point I want to dwell upon is the establishment of a national news agency. This point came into my speech some time last year. I know that foreign writers and reporters publish articles on Nigeria and they always twist their facts, and the reason for this is that they have no source from which they can obtain facts and figures.

By the establishment of the national news agency a source will have been created whereby writers and journalists, either indigenous or exotic can have access to facts so as to have them published accurately. So, this is a welcome move and I hope government will not delay this worthwhile programme.

I wish also to say a few words about the African countries which participated in the last Olympic Games in Tokyo. It is heartening to note that many African countries participated in the last Games. This shows that Africa has come of age. Even though the standard of performance of the African countries could not be said to be the best or to be of the highest, yet, it is indeed encouraging.

The achievements of these countries were very encouraging and they constitute a promise for greater tomorrow. We have, for instance, the Ethiopian, Abebe Bikila, who won a gold medal; we have another athlete from Tunis who won a silver medal and there are other four countries, including Nigeria, which won bronze medals. This augurs well for the future of Africa.

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I would like to suggest that, taking a cue from that, the Organisation of African Unity should now step up sporting activities in the continent of Africa, and the best way to do that is by organising a Pan-African competition among African countries.

Here in Nigeria, the Federal Government should take the initiative in organising sporting activities and in doing that I suggest that we should go the American way. The government of the United States takes up sporting activities very seriously—tackling sporting problems at schools at all levels: primary schools, modern schools, secondary schools and universities. And that is why we have America being the greatest country of the world producing sports men and women.

I think that, with efficient organisation and hard work Nigeria will be one of the foremost countries of the world producing sports men and women to compete in these international games.

The next Olympic Games will be in Mexico and I hope our competitors will measure up to the standard by improving upon the achievements of Tokyo.

I wish to say a few words on the Nigeria Airways. Government has said something about expanding the facilities. Lagos and Kano International Airports will be further developed. The Airways will continue to accelerate the development of the domestic as well as its international services.

In this connection, I must congratulate the Airways authorities for the recent announcement made in the reduction of fares within Northern Nigeria. I hope that before long, similar reductions will be effected to cover the whole of the country. Not only that, to help the Airways to be placed on a sounder economic footing the Federal Government should patronise the Corporation; where the Nigeria Airways have no direct passage, the practice has always been for her to use her agencies.

I therefore appeal that, not only the Federal Government but also the Regional Governments and the Ministers who are travelling extensively should make use of the Nigeria Airways.

I now come to that explosive point—the crisis in the University of Lagos. As elder statesmen and as has been said by one of the

Senators who spoke earlier, the crisis is a matter which everyone of us will have to examine dispassionately. It is a matter in which we should not allow ourselves to be emotionally guided. What are the facts of the crisis?

Trouble arose from the fact that the senate of this institution, among other things, recommended that Professor Eni Njoku should be reappointed. The recommendation was passed on to the Provisional Council which turned it down and proceeded to choose somebody else without reference to the Senate thereby giving room to suspicion.

We are not saying anything about the merits or the demerits of the two gentlemen concerned but the fact is that the Senate recommended somebody—the pioneer of that institution, the man who is just carrying the baby in his hands trying to place it on sound footing—and this gentleman is being thrown out without any reasons whatsoever. The man that is being tossed up like a cork on the waves, in the person of Professor Njoku, has proved to be one of the ablest in university administration.

He began less than three years ago, he has not wronged anybody and he has helped to weld the institution into one harmonious whole—harmony between the student-body and the staff, and harmony between the institution and the general public.

What are his iniquities? The other gentleman who is now being imposed on the institution had another appointment—an appointment that should bring honour to this country. He was to be in charge of the University of Zambia. What would be wrong in one man being in Zambia and the other man being in Lagos? Rather, the man in Lagos is to be dislodged and the Zambian appointment is to be given up so that the University of Lagos is to be turned into a cock pit; already some institutions are inclining towards that.

Some people are talking about arrangement having been made to ensure that Professor Njoku retains his present salary. We are not bothered about salary. The salary has to do with the Professors, but we are talking of efficiency—the continuity that should be maintained in our young institution. Give him no salary if you like, but let him remain there.

[SENATOR UKATTAH]

I think that this matter should be very closely looked into and my suggestion here now is that we should appoint a delegation from among ourselves to go and see the Prime Minister on this issue.

If we say that it is something that relates to Lagos alone or something that has to do with the Provisional Council or even the Senate of the institution, it is a mistake because any small trouble you may have in any part of the Federation affects every citizen of this Federation.

The University of Lagos is a meeting place for Nigerian students and nationals of other countries. We should not turn it into a political forum. My suggestion is that we should send a delegation to the Prime Minister to tell him how we feel about this matter and to say that the matter must be thoroughly resolved.

The only way to do that is to ask the professor now in charge to continue for another term. If you say he should go out, perhaps his successor will face the same unpleasantness at the end of the three-year term and that kind of thing cannot do us any good. A Vice-Chancellor is appointed and while he is trying to find his feet, he is asked to go and another man is appointed. It does not make for continuity; it does not make for progress and that is why I am concerned.

With these few remarks, may I say again that I wholeheartedly support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency.

**Senator Chief J. O. Ngiangia:** I rise to associate myself with the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the President. In doing so, I wish to make my observation regarding an act of hooliganism exhibited against our honoured Prime Minister. I think he is a gentleman who deserves respect. We are now talking of how Ghanaian hooligans acted against our own representative in Ghana and the Embassy. What about our own Prime Minister in our midst who was treated with insult? This Senate should deplore that act.

We should not mind to what political party the unknown person may belong to. I do not think that any political party would send a man to do this or would endorse an act done in this way to our most honoured Prime Minister.

I now come down to the question of education. It is really true that the Regional Governments are doing very well in this respect. They are bending their energies to see that the course of education is pursued properly well; they are even rivalling one another. But unfortunately, the work is too much when compared with the level of their financial capacity. The work is far too much for them to do efficiently.

I would like to suggest that there should be a National Board of Education at least to co-ordinate the educational policies of the regions. This Board of Education would have to act in the way outlined in the Speech of His Excellency, at all levels of education. That Board should see to it that teachers have national certificates and not regional certificates. This is one of the things we shall have to look into.

It is not good at all for a teacher who is certificated in one region, when he goes to another region, to find that people are trying to compare the standard of his certificate of his region of origin with that of the new region he has entered to seek work.

Another anomaly in the field of education is this. We talk of degrading standards of education. We always say that the standard of our education is getting lower and lower in the elementary schools, and that is going to affect the standard in the secondary school as well I think our policy, to a certain extent, is responsible for that.

A Senator has already remarked that teachers, instead of doing their work, study their text books or make applications elsewhere. We cannot blame the teachers for this. Let us take the case of a teacher who has taught for fifteen to twenty years, and who has only risen to be the headmaster of a school. No premium is placed on his experience. He has gone, perhaps, to the poor ceiling of his salary. Then take the case of a young man who is more ambitious and who has better brain than the old headmaster. The old teacher, perhaps, had brought up this young ambitious teacher. The young teacher passes higher examinations and obtains higher certificates. The young teacher is promoted and the old headmaster with his wealth of experience is by-passed. He is not considered at all for promotion.

The only avenue for promotion open to the old teacher is to bend down to his books, drag

himself to the examination room, no matter his age, and pass a higher examination which will qualify him for promotion.

I think, in other countries, promotions among teacher are based on their experience and efficiency in their work. I would recommend this policy to this House for onward transmission to the appropriate quarters.

It is quite possible to have a very brilliant young teacher whose boys or students are not doing well in their studies. The teacher is quite scholarly, but his own pupils are not passing their examinations at school. The pupils are rather weak. Why are the boys weak? They are weak because the young teacher has not been doing his work. Why has he not been doing his work? He has been paying more attention to his reading and his text books. He is reading to obtain higher qualifications which will earn for him fatter salary. The young teacher knows it is the policy of the Government not to bother whether he does his work or not, but to place higher premium to the certificates that he would hold after passing his examinations.

I, therefore, advise that that policy should be changed. It does not matter whether a teacher holds the Higher Elementary Grade II certificate or the Grade I certificate. If he is efficient in his work, if his boys are doing well, if he does his class work efficiently and to the satisfaction of his Manager, then he needs to be encouraged, so that other teachers will follow suit. In this way, the standard of work in our schools will improve.

I come to the question of ammunition. A great Federation like Nigeria ought to make adequate arrangements for defence instead of depending upon imported ammunition and arms. We may not be looking forward to any exigencies in any form, but it would be wrong to sit down and wait for somebody to bring arms to us, when there is war. It may happen that the country supplying us with arms and ammunition is in trouble too, how can we get arms then?

On this subject, however, I wish to sound a note of warning. Our people are very clever as we can see in making counterfeit patterns of anything that Government manufactures. When it comes to the making of gin, our people can, in an illicit manner, make as good gin as the

manufacturers can make. When it comes to the making of cabinet, the Nigerian carpenter would look carefully and study carefully what is being produced by manufacturing agents and trade centres; he would go to his cottage workshop and make cabinet of indential grade with the ones he had seen displayed by manufacturing agents. When it comes to metal works, in Port Harcourt, for example, ordinary mechanics or metal workers who have had no professional training, can just look at a piece of metal work, go back to their little workshops and produce a similar thing.

Well, I praise them for all that. It means that, as a nation, we have the people who have talents which we can only encourage. But when you come to the manufacture of ammunition, what precaution is Government going to take so that the manufacture of powerful weapons like bombs, and so on, are not imitated in cottage workshops. If this situation should arise, it will not be long before every village in Nigeria is fully armed with dangerous implements. It cannot be doubted that people who can counterfeit our own very coins can also begin to try their hands in counterfeiting dangerous weapons.

I advise that this Senate should pass on to the hon. Prime Minister their feelings on this matter, and implore the Prime Minister to see to it that when it comes to the manufacture of ammunition and arms, the greatest precaution should be taken that nobody else could do it in an illegal way.

I come to the question of water and electricity. Very many people in the big towns seem to believe that electricity is a luxury. Although it was a luxury yesterday, to-day, it has become a necessity. I want to talk in respect of towns in the rural areas. Very many towns are neglected because they cannot attract us. Sometimes we say that these towns have no industries and no trade. They cannot produce things that we may buy. We turn our faces to the commercial centres.

The peasants of the country are living in these rural areas, and in most of these places, population is very thick. Let our leaders and those concerned realise that some of the people in the rural areas are suffering. They cannot get water to drink when we have more than enough water here. We can do anything with water, even if it is for our boys to turn

[SENATOR CHIEF NGIANGIA]

the taps on and waste the water. In rural areas, people dig the ground and yet find no water. They drink muddy water. They certainly belong to this Federation as much as we ourselves. I am really very pleased that His Excellency the President had to mention these two items—water and electricity—in his speech.

I come next to fishing industry. Much talk, I think, has been made in times past in regard to this very important industry in our country. Nigeria has been blessed with coastal waters, a lot of creeks and seas that can be exploited to give us employment. Many a time we talk of the fishing industry and then leave it at that. We do not proceed further to make concrete arrangements to promote this industry. We do not put into practice what we say.

Very many people in the coastal areas live on fish, and we do not seem to give any encouragement to them. I come from a place where the people live on fish. We know that fishing is one of the most difficult industries in the world. Our people can only fish in the creeks, but we have to encourage them to go out to the big seas and fish. If sea fishing is improved by the Government, we shall find that much of our money no longer goes out of the country to bring in stock fish for us; we shall be able to reduce part of our imports.

I come to farm settlements. These are undertakings that the Regional Governments have embarked upon.

In some of the Regions, farm settlements have been laid out and the settlers are doing very excellent work. As a result of their work, native food stuffs are getting lesser and lesser in price. Although many people are now unemployed, but the cheapness of food certainly will offset the hardship they encounter from being unemployed.

It would be a good idea if these settlements are not only confined to places where there are large tracts of land. There are certain other places where there are no large tracts of land, yet the people in those places produce the food they need by themselves and carry on their own agriculture in whatever little way they can. It would be a better idea if these people are made to establish farm settlements adapted to their own size of land.

Finally, I have to repeat that I associate myself with the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency for his laudable speech from the Throne, given to both Houses of Parliament on the 24th of March, 1965.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu :** I rise to support the various speakers who have spoken on the Motion on the President's Speech. Much time has been wasted and I would be very brief.

Many things have been said about our President and I am happy that we are fortunate to have two God-fearing personalities to rule the destiny of Nigeria as a whole—our President of to-day, as well as our hon. Prime Minister of the Republic of Nigeria. Hon. Senators will all agree with me that but for their very wise counsel, their spirit of tolerance, their devotion to duty and their love for human beings, perhaps Nigeria would have been turned into a second Congo during our last Federal elections, precisely on the 30th of December, 1964.

We have all learnt our lessons as a result of that election. Those who boycotted the election have also learnt their lessons. Now I think the time has come when we, the fathers should be bold enough to call a spade a spade. At times parents may be wrong to advise their children along certain lines, nevertheless, any child who has culture, fear or respect for the dignity of old age, will first admit, then obey and then complain.

The present ugly situation in the University of Lagos is a great shock to this country. A Senator made the suggestion that some Senators should be appointed to see the Prime Minister in connection with the situation of the University students.

The Prime Minister, who has been able to restore peace and harmony to Nigeria in the hour of distress, in his capacity asked the University students, rightly or wrongly, to go back to their work, and to leave the rest of the matter to him. The students adamantly refused the Prime Minister's—their father's—order.

Let us forget about the Provisional Council. Let us forget about who was wrongly installed or who was wrongly ejected. The Prime Minister, for whom I know we all have very great respect, was approached by these students, or shall I now call them rascals, and were

instructed by the Prime Minister to go back to work, but they felt they could set aside an order from a person for whom you and I have very deep regard. The Prime Minister asked them to go back to work because he knew what he was going to do about the situation. It would not end there. But these students took the law into their own hands, and we know where they have dragged this country to to-day.

I would not encourage any father or mother here to support such an idea. We are not, by that, leading our nation to the rightful position where God has destined her to be. We must all be clear about that.

As I said before, as a father or mother, you may be wrong; nevertheless, you can retrace your steps after some time. It would be very bad and wicked for anybody to condone these students. Something must be done to stop student revolt in this country because it is becoming a common practice. Some three or four years ago, a similar demonstration was made by the students of the University College, Ibadan. We can all remember how we scattered in this House of Senate when tear gas was thrown on us, as the students invaded Parliament buildings. Unless a law is introduced to curb such acts of hooliganism by our students, the situation might degenerate.

We all read books. We all know how very obedient students in other parts of the world always are. They always obey first before they complain. I am very grateful that some of our Senators have already spoken on this matter. The time has now come when we must take it up as fathers, and as builders of this nation, to see that something is done to stop these acts of hooliganism. The whole world is looking on us now, and we should not drag ourselves into the mud, by having such incidents every now and again.

We are crying now in condemnation of Nkrumah. We are condemning the way people are being chained in Ghana. If we do away with Ghana to-day, what will prevent other nations from saying that they are doing away from our children, far be it though. If we encourage our students, our children, in their acts of lawlessness, other nations certainly will point fingers at them in future.

The London *Express* is now even reporting on the conditions of human beings in Ghana. The time has come for Nigeria to take a bold

stand on Ghana, because there is nothing that will prevent our ambassadors from being chained alongside with the Ghanaians themselves.

Our Embassy in Ghana has been invaded and our officers ill-treated and driven away from the office. We as the fathers of the people should not sit quiet here and wait until something has happened to us personally. The time has come for us to do something. Let us make bold and tell the President of Ghana that we are not going to take this from Ghana and so we want an apology for Nigeria for the bad behaviour of Ghanaians.

We must call a spade a spade. Let us take a bold stand. If President Nkrumah is in the habit of getting advice from Russia according to news reports, we are not going to tolerate that from him. Let Nkrumah and his country be thrown out of the Commonwealth.

If Nkrumah cannot be peaceful with his neighbours, if he cannot be peaceful with fellow African States and even with his own fellow Ghanaians but would rather put them in chains and throw them into jails like donkeys or monkeys, I think the whitemen whom we asked to go away from our countries because we wanted independence, would simply look at us and laugh.

My dear Senators, Nigeria is now more or less the nearest neighbour apart from Dahomey, to Ghana. We want to hear what Ghana is planning to do. Right now, Ghanaians who are in exile have appealed to Sir Harold Wilson in London to help them. Are we going to wait until we have been appealed to before we do something? These people have the same black colour with us. I am therefore appealing to the President and Senators that something must be done immediately in this respect.

The Speech of the President is very, very interesting and I share most of the views expressed therein. We are fortunate that we have got a Nigerian leading at the moment in the O.A.U. but this does not mean we should stop there. We should try to project ourselves. People are coming to know us the more. People are now coming to Nigeria from time to time to study our culture and behaviour.

Going through the Address of the President, I notice he has said that 10,000 people will soon be shifted to Surulere. I feel the time



[SENATOR CHIEF HUNPONU-WUSU]

has now come when something should be done in the way of overhead bridges at Surulere and Yaba bus stops respectively.

Senator Chief Egbuson has already told us here that at one time the Prime Minister was unable to catch a plane because the gates along a major road were closed for a train to pass. In any case, I am open to correction but I know similar things do happen. It is almost every half an hour or three-quarters of an hour that a train passes by Surulere bus stop.

Now that we are moving 10,000 people to Surulere are we not going to do something or are we going to wait until a train damages the gates as it happened nineteen and a half years ago at Ikeja, where two Europeans, a man and a woman were killed, before we start thinking of constructing a bridge?

It was due to the death of the two Europeans that an overhead bridge was constructed at Ikeja. If those two people were Africans, I know that the white people would have done nothing but are we going to wait until somebody of our own colour has been killed before we start building overhead bridges? There is always a mad rush when the gates are opened.

I mentioned this very subject in this House some two years ago and in addition to that it was I who made the speech about a second bridge being necessary for Lagos.

The Minister of Works and Surveys told us in this very House on the 27th of March, during the Budget Meeting that £7 million was expected to be used in constructing a second bridge. When I first made mention of this subject we had not yet got our independence and up till to-day nothing has been done about it.

Senators can imagine the increasing number of vehicles which go through the Carter bridge every day. I also suggested three or five ways whereby the congestion on the bridge could be reduced. One of the suggestions was the diversion of traffic and I am happy to note that that has been done under the bridge. I still insist that the time has come for overhead bridges to be built and this must be done immediately. Let us find the money. I know some other places require this sort of amenities but priority should be given to the City of Lagos, the headquarters of our Government just like the City of London.

Secondly, I come to the trunk A roads that we pass through when coming from Ijebu-Ode or coming from Ibadan or Abeokuta. We are happy that some roads in the Western region are being developed but I will sound another note of warning. The road from mile 18 to mile 25, which is the police station at Otta, is very bad.

I am sure the Ikorodu Road will be bad in course of time when it starts raining. So if any diversion is going to be made on that road, then something must be done immediately by the Minister of Works and Surveys. There are six different corners and bends along mile 18 to mile 25—Agege Motor Road to Abeokuta.

The question of education is very, very important for a young nation like ours. People who stay in Lagos or come to Lagos will agree with me that we have not got sufficient schools for our children. Parents do suffer very much to get schools for their children in Lagos.

If the children are fortunate enough to be registered, there are no schools to accommodate them. Why? because the present buildings which our education authorities have provided are not sufficient for the number of pupils available. Where there is a building constructed to accommodate 200 pupils, and by the end of the year there are 500 pupils for that school, what are we going to do with the remaining 300. Are we going to throw them away?

Parents parade the streets of Lagos every day looking for schools where their children can be accommodated. The Government should arrest this situation. There are large stretches of land at Surulere and Ikoyi where schools can be built. There should be no wasting of land. People who have travelled to places like, Holland, Amsterdam, Germany or France will agree with me that we have got more land than they have got in any of these places, particularly, in Holland. In Holland they have buildings of about twenty storeys for schools. Why should we waste large acres of land for just one person to enjoy.

These are the children who are going to build Nigeria. They want to learn but there are no schools for them. If we were not educated we could not have been where we are to-day.

As a Senator has said, immediately the children get to standard six, they want to go to secondary schools but there are no schools for them.

They have to beg for a long time before they are told that there is no room for them. But you have to go to Ikoyi now and you will see small schools being erected.

Why cannot the government make bold to put up multi-storey buildings like those which can be seen in St. Paul's Breadfruit School compound, in order to accommodate up to 4,000 or more pupils at a time. This would help to remedy the congestion which occurs in our schools at the beginning of the school year. If the situation is not remedied our young ones who are just growing up will be adversely affected because as the older boys at school go out the young ones take up their places.

Another point I want to raise is the question of tax evaders. It is very important that we must all pay our taxes. Senators will agree with me that there are students overseas who benefit from scholarships given by the government out of the tax each one of us pays.

But Senators would be surprised to hear that the Government is now limiting the number of scholarships given to the children of those who declare their incomes. If other government students can enjoy facilities from the taxes that we pay I do not see why your own children should be deprived of the same facility. This is what is causing a lot of trouble to some of our children overseas.

I am now asking the Government to regularise this Ordinance and tell the income tax collectors that once a person declares the number of children he has and his income, whatever the Government allows for government students should be allowed to the children of every parent irrespective of their numbers. Nobody takes recognition of those things but they are affecting our children overseas.

We are at present praying for the development of Nigeria but if we want to develop and be able to hand over everything to our children, why should the Government limit the number of students who want to go and study overseas? I have discussed this with the officer in charge of taxes sometime ago and I have spoken to him personally about the importance of it.

**The President :** The Government is preparing a Bill for income tax law. Your point might be included in that Bill.

**Chief Hunponu-Wusu :** This has been done once or twice. I remember that in 1962 such a Bill was brought up to this House but this point was purposely omitted. But we should stress it on the Floor of this House so that the Government can take note of it. If the Government should allow any body to enjoy facilities from the tax which we pay why should our own children not enjoy the same facilities

Another point I want to raise is the question of citizenship. Senators will remember that I mentioned it sometime ago when the Bill on it was being passed, that citizenship was being denied some people who are prevented from getting their passports when they want to travel overseas. This does not happen so much in some of our regions, for example, the Eastern, Northern and Mid-Western Regions, as it happens here in Lagos and in Western Region.

I asked this question before and with your indulgence, Mr President I wish to ask again whether it is because Dahomey our nearest neighbour, is not a member of the Commonwealth that Dahomeans who were born and educated here and who may remain till upwards of fifty years in this country are not accorded full citizenship. I appeal that whatever effects the prestige of this nation should be properly looked into.

With these few remarks I beg to support.

**Senator Oba Adeyinka Oyekan II of Lagos :** I rise to support the humble Motion of this House to His Excellency, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. In doing so, I would like to touch on a few points mentioned by His Excellency.

First, I would like to take the point of non-alignment. Several times we have said that this country of ours is not linked with any group or section of these blocs. But it has been proved that we have been partial to the Western bloc. We have linked our country more to the Western bloc and we have all the time neglected the Eastern bloc. The question of obtaining passport to the Eastern bloc is so difficult that one cannot easily get a passport. I have a personal experience of that myself when I was to travel to Czechoslovakia about two years ago. There is a lot for us to learn in these countries of the East. We have known

[SENATOR OBA ADEYINKA OYEKAN]  
the West. We talk glibly of the East. We do not know what is going on there and we believe what is told us. But if we could allow our citizens of Nigeria to go to these countries, I am sure there is a lot for them to learn from there.

The President spoke about tightening our link with the British Commonwealth. I hope this is not going to strain our relationship with our African brethren. We already have a set-up which is very encouraging and if we still link ourselves too tightly to the Commonwealth I think we are going to strain our relationship with the other African nations.

On the question of education, I have this to say. This is the Federal Capital. People before used to say that Lagos is no man's land. But I think we all agree now that Lagos is everybody's land. If Lagos is everybody's land, we who live in it should be looked after properly. We have very inadequate school buildings for our children. I experienced this. My children have to go to school from Lagos to Yaba. They had to go to Surulere before because there was no school near for them to attend in Lagos. There is still none nearby.

I do not know what goes on in other parts of the country, but as far as the free primary education in Lagos is concerned, I think it is the best. For this reason, many children are brought from the Regions to Lagos and this creates a problem because there is no room for everybody. I know that the Lagos City Council is responsible for most of the schools, but the funds they have are inadequate and if, as we claim, this is the Federal Territory, I think the Federal Government should be helpful. They should help the Lagos City Council with more funds.

Talking about electricity, I find that the Electricity Corporation claimed that several Corporations and Government Departments are owing them huge amounts of money and because of that they cannot cope with what work they should do. Several times we have power failure and it is very annoying to find everything in your fridge as hot as 200°F. I think something should be done to help this Corporation to get out of debt so that they can continue to do the good work they should do. We have so many industries around us here now

and these industries use electricity. If power keeps on failing we will be losing money. It is not economical for us to lose in that way.

It is nice to learn that the Postal Department of the Ministry of Communications will become a quasi-commercial venture. I hope this is not going to worsen the situation already existing. I remember during my installation I sent an invitation to His Excellency the President. The invitation card did not get to him until four days after the celebration, and that was between Isale-Eko and the State House! That is very very bad. I do not think the Ministry of Communications should be congratulated for such things at all, and I do not think the Minister himself likes things to go on that way. A lot of things should be done in that Department to hasten services. Telephone calls, telegrams, mails, etc. should be despatched promptly. Through the President of this House (and I hope I am expressing the sentiment of Senators) I appeal to that Ministry to do better job for the country.

I would not like to take much of the time of Senators but I would beg all of you to allow me to thank Senators for the kind of words said about me and for the cordial way they have all received me, especially the President.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief (Mrs) Wurao a A. Esan :**  
I rise to support the Motion of Thanks for the Presidential Address. I have to congratulate the President for being alive to give us the Address, and we ourselves also for being alive to receive it. May God always give us cool-headed people in time of crisis.

I would only like to touch upon some points that are more connected with women affairs, and they are peace in the home and peace in the country as a whole. In maintaining friendly relationship with other nations, we must not forget that we ought to maintain peace internally first. This we should have to do not only by legislation against thuggery, hooliganism, vandalism and all the "isms", but by giving the right type of education to our people and by combating the problem of unemployment, because I think what is causing all this trouble is lack of employment. Some people are unable to work but can be made use of by a sort of organisation set up by the Government which can compel them to work.

There are people who want to work but they cannot find work to do. So if the Government makes it its chief duty to supply enough employment as much as possible every year, I think people will forget to bind themselves together and damage the good name of people we should respect much more than is being done. Calling oneself by a special name does not mean anything wonderful unless one lives up to the dignity of that name.

So, I think unemployment is the cause of most of our ills now, and it is only when we can provide sufficient work for our people that we would be doing something towards the eradication of this kind of hooliganism.

The first point that I would like to touch is on page five of His Excellency's Speech. With your permission, Mr President, I quote —

*“Special attention will be given to the problems of adoption of children and of juvenile delinquency and beggary in our community.”*

I am happy that adoption would be considered. This step should be taken as early as possible. There are children now who require the care of mothers and the comfort of good homes. Through no fault of theirs, either the mother died during child-birth, or the father died and the mother is unable to maintain the child, or something else happened, the child is thrown out on Government for protection. This kind of children are those being taken care of by the Government at present.

Government does too much to give comfort and shelter to these children, but it cannot give maternal comfort or the care that should be got in a home. So they need a congenial atmosphere in which to grow, and I am happy that adoption programme is one of the Government's programmes this year.

As far as beggary is concerned, there is a sort of modernised beggary now in practice. School children write letters to some prominent people telling unlikely stories in order to collect money. I think this type of beggary should be arrested now if we are not going to be turned into a race of beggars and forgers.

Then I come to juvenile delinquency. This, I think, will be taken care of when something is done about matrimonial problems. An organisation for marriage guidance, or birth

control, or family planning should be aided by the Government, because such voluntary organisations are doing excellent work, though much of the funds used by the organisation are contributed voluntarily by people of goodwill. But Government itself must look into this and give such organisations sufficient funds in order to carry out this kind of good work. In Family Planning they plan whereby people who have the tendency of having more children than they can afford to bring up can be educated to curtail such a luxury.

The Marriage Guidance Organisation saves broken homes. This Organisation needs the encouragement of the Government, and the only encouragement Government can give it is to supply it with adequate funds.

My second point is on Education in general. We talk about education and training institutions. In training teachers we must consider the intake, as somebody said, because most of our teachers now have no inclination towards teaching. They teach because they have no other profession to fall on. If we have a certain set of people to interview we should try and know the reason why they want to go in as teachers. That will be better for us, because most of the strikes, or the complaints and crises in our schools are caused by some teachers and not by the school children. This is because when one is being trained or taught by frustrated people one gets frustrated too, and frustration must bring crisis.

So, the teachers we now want are the loyal ones—teachers who have the willingness to teach in spite of their poor salary and other inconveniences. It will do us a lot of good in the future if a body like the one proposed to be set up by the Government will consider this important point among all others when it comes to the training of teachers, not only in the Federal Territory of Lagos but also all over the country. Most of the teachers are not loyal in their work, because those who are loyal work towards progress.

One cannot blame the teachers who have to read quite a lot, because all we want in Nigeria now is an academical proof that one has got a degree in such and such and not that one has got experience, or that one is a hardworker. I think that degrees sell more than experience or industry. If I obtain a B.A. degree to-day, whether or not I like teaching, I will be pushed

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into one grammar school, and that grammar school will immediately be approved, because I hold a degree and not because I am a good teacher or have improved the school. This kind of thing should be considered by the group of people who are going to meet on this National Educational Resource Centre.

Then comes the proposal of giving television broadcasts to schools on such subjects as Science, French, Mathematics and Music. Well, I am happy that these subjects are to be introduced, but the Government should go further. If all the children in the Federal Republic of Nigeria are to benefit by this project then television should be supplied to all schools. Unless this is done, there is no point in giving television broadcasts on Music and French to only the people of Lagos.

Visual aid to any education is the best. One learns by seeing. So, if the Government can provide television as well, we shall be happy.

Aid to voluntary agencies, as I see it, is not sufficiently provided to carry out all the responsibilities. Now, Government is adding more to these by giving them another responsibility of opening adult education centres. Voluntary agencies are complaining all over the country about lack of funds. One cannot charge more than what the Government approves, and one cannot even charge exorbitantly because parents will not pay. As a Senator said this morning, although in a general way, I know of schools which are not receiving fees according to what Government has stipulated should be received as fees, because parents would not pay. So, if one wants to charge extra nobody will pay, and Government will not give voluntary agencies all the help necessary to carry out their day-to-day business efficiently. This problem must be solved somehow.

Well, everybody wants the next-door neighbour to be able to read and write. That is good for everybody. Politicians will not be able to make much hue and cry when everybody can read and write. But at the same time the Government must think of the responsibility of adding more to the burden of voluntary agencies.

**The President :** It is now 1 o'clock, and sitting is suspended until 3 o'clock.

*Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 3.00 p.m.*

**Senator Chief (Mrs) Wuraola A. Esan :** I ended my speech in the morning on how to help the voluntary agencies. Now, I would like to suggest certain things that should be done by the Resource Centres which are to be established.

I would like to suggest that such things as (a) setting and marking of school leaving certificate examinations; (b) issuing of certificates at all levels, and (c) finding methods of encouraging teachers to study for higher qualifications should be done by these Resource Centres. Furthermore, I should like to suggest that all anomalies concerning fixing of rates of salaries to be paid to teachers should be removed. We hope also that in due course all plans concerning education in parts of the Federation would be formulated in these Centres.

On dangerous drugs, I notice that all the points made in the President's Speech are about poisonous or dangerous drugs. But there are certain types of drugs which are peddled about now which, though not really poisonous, are not good to be taken. Examples of this type of drugs include the locally made A.P.C. This type of drug is very plentiful in the market now and one can buy a very large quantity for a very little sum of money. They cannot cause a lot of harm, but a lot of them taken at a time can be dangerous. Generally speaking, this type of drug can be grouped among the dangerous drugs and those dealing in them should be discouraged from peddling them.

I would like to say something on this question of legislating against tribalism. I do not think any Government can make law against people who are faithful to a particular group of people. I do not see how Government can make such a law, as I am not a lawyer. There may perhaps be a way to tell people not to be too loyal to a particular group of people.

What we call tribalism now is not really tribalism. The position is that certain people get hold of those I may call the "have-nots" and use them for their own greedy ends. These people try to make the have-nots practise a sort of loyalty that is not loyalty at all. They are told that because they do not belong to certain tribes certain things are not done for them. But we are all suffering from

this thing after all, in the Eastern Region, in the Western Region and in the Northern Region, and I do not see any reason why we should ask Government to legislate against anything that is not really something that can be wiped out. What should be done really is to make everyone of us realise that people like us are responsible enough to make all the citizens of Nigeria think that they belong to one country, and not to make law to see that certain people are not loyal to their own tribes.

If those who are considered as responsible people should go about their duty and not go about inciting others to cultivate hatred against others, the position should not be very serious.

Somebody suggested this morning that we should lead a delegation to the Prime Minister on the crisis in the University of Lagos. I do not agree to that suggestion. It is not reasonable that because certain children have disobeyed a particular father, then all the other fathers should lead a delegation to that father and ask him to act against his own judgment. That particular father may tell the other ones, "Go back, I shall see what I can do about it". The best thing should be to tell these children not to take the law into their own hands, rather than leading a delegation to beg.

**Senator A. E. Ukattah :** Why ?

**Senator Chief (Mrs) Esan :** But the students went away and disobeyed. So, if we must start somewhere it should be to tell our children to heed the advice of constituted authority. If we do not respect those we place in positions of authority now, when are we going to start? After all, undergraduates are no infants. If school children do something bad, we elderly people can go and beg on their behalf, but undergraduates are supposed to have lots of commonsense in their heads. Personally, I do not agree that we should go to the Prime Minister to discuss ways and means of begging the Provisional Council of the University of Lagos so that the members can change their minds. One thing we should realise is that by going on this delegation we are helping to fan the embers of hatred not only in our universities but also in schools. In Nigeria, we have never seen three beggars—one Ibo, one Hausa and the third Yoruba—fighting simply because they are Hausa, Ibo and Yoruba. They

may fight if you throw a penny to them and one happens to get it. This shows that there is no tribalism really at the bottom; it is at the middle or the top. So, we must go back and examine our conscience and stop troubling constituted authorities by asking unauthorised persons to go and interfere where they should not interfere.

On intensification of programme to produce more medical surgeons, all efforts should be made to continue with the campaign to recruit candidates for the medical profession. I would like to say that the medical profession should not be limited to men only. We should also have female doctors. But what we see is that this profession has been made very strenuous for women. They are supposed to do the same number of hours of duty with men and these women are supposed to bear children as well—they have to be housekeepers as well as housewives and doctors. I think this is too much for women. Consideration should be given to them so that their hours of duty should be reconsidered so as not to discourage women who intend to take up a career in the medical profession.

On the question of marriage and divorce, I am happy that it has been considered here and I hope this Bill will be passed without delay. The children of people trying to separate live under nervous tension, and if we allow the situation to continue the children will suffer. It is a pity we cannot help broken homes because it is a sign of progress. In the olden days women are not allowed to leave their husbands.

Finally, I have to mention briefly that we must be serious about the atmosphere we create in our institutions. As I said before, we should do our best not only to encourage good teachers, we must also try to encourage good atmosphere. As His Highness Senator Oba Adeyinka Oyekan said this morning, it is not good if too many children are crowded into a small place; it is not conducive to good training. After all, in education it is not just a question of reading and writing alone; it is also a question of being able to study atmospheric development and see that we benefit: eat well, play well and sleep well. All that will add to the unification of Nigeria's tribal groups.

[SENATOR CHIEF (MRS) ESAN]

Although we are advocating for more states and more opportunities for little ethnic groups, we have smaller groups that really belong to Nigeria and they, too, must be able to contribute their own quota towards the progress of Nigeria. On the other hand, when we have this education and our children are studying together, we must see that their classroom is roomy enough so that all ethnic groups can move together. In this way, there will not be much misunderstanding among the young ones, and by the time they reach the secondary or university level they will be able to understand one another more and this question of tribalism will disappear.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief S. A. Lateju :** I would like to associate myself with those who have showered praises and thanks to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for his Speech from the Throne. Really, the speech was a big one.

I want to say something about the points which featured in the Speech. The first is education. I feel that all that we do hinges on education, not only in this country but also in other countries.

I listened carefully to some speakers this morning talking about free primary education. I do not think that it is altogether right to say we have free primary education. What we have is "Fee Free Primary Education". Although Government is financing it, but in the final analysis it is no free education.

We are talking of content of education. If we understand what content of education means, we will readily say that our present system of education is almost out-of-date. In the olden days pupils were taught to pass examination; that was the main purpose at that time. At the present time, students read to pass examination; the whole content of education is dry.

I would like to say that there are many teachers who are trying to do their best, but through extraneous influences they are handicapped. The example I want to give now boils down to the immoral side of our education. Here is a boy who cannot be disciplined in the school, the class teacher reports him to the

headmaster and the headmaster finds it necessary to send him home and the boy is sent home. In the course of ten minutes, somebody brings a note from someone saying that that boy must be re-admitted at once. What can the teacher do? He will be helpless and that particular boy will never obey the teacher any more.

Another thing that is causing downfall in our education and which I think the Ministry of Education should look into is the leakage of examination questions from time to time. That is a shame on our country. The leakage has gone so far as to the place where we expect to have protection. You just employ somebody who has a Class Four certificate and give him a piece of job to do, he will make a nonsense of it. The reason is either that somebody helped him to pass the examination or he bought the certificate. The Government should do something to regularise this.

One Senator said in the morning that teachers changed text-books from time to time. Teachers do not change them; they get the list of text books from the Ministry. I am sorry to say that some publishers of books just go to the Ministry and the Ministry recommends the book they have published for use in schools. It is not the fault of the teachers; something is wrong right from the head. I think it is time we paid attention to this anomaly.

Another thing that lowers the standard of our education is the publication of answers to past questions. As parents, we should know why our parents fail. Children do not listen to their teachers again; they depend upon those selected answers to questions instead of listening to lectures. When the examination comes and there is a little bit of variation, then they are lost. The Government should do something about this. I would suggest that if there is going to be a change in the content of education there must be a change in the administration as well.

We are happy when we hear that our children have been promoted from class one to class two, for example. But the question remains, did they do the work of class one well? This is called automatic promotion. You just take a boy who is reading class three in a grammar school and ask him to read something. He will

not be able to read it properly. Even if you employ somebody to teach him at home, the person you employ will not teach him properly because he too does not know the method of teaching.

We are complaining that teachers study their lessons in the class-rooms. They do so because the Government places premium on paper qualification. I know of one Teacher Training College where students failed woefully in the subjects taught by a graduate and they passed in the subjects taught by a non-graduate but experienced tutor in that college. The Government should stop placing premium on paper qualification.

I now come back to indiscipline in our higher institutions where we expect respect and decency. It is a pity to observe that some act of indiscipline which we have in our higher institutions are organised by some extraneous elements. If Senators dig deeply they would easily find this out. If you look for trouble trouble will trouble you. We, as mature men and women and as fathers and mothers, should advise our youngsters who have not travelled far. There is an axiom which says, with your permission, Mr President, that if a child has many new clothes, he cannot have as many rags as an old man. The wisdom is there; so the wisdom is here too. We are to train our youngsters.

I now go over to the aspect of the Speech which deals with mineral resources. I am very happy to see this outline of what we are going to do in the future. I would like to see our scientists in their khakis, in their shorts and shirts in the bush working. I do not want to see them sitting down in the offices. As we all know, those who are to find things out, must go out and live there.

I think we have one big power and any time we can tackle that power we will be able to lead the whole world. This power is the power from the soil. It is our blessing in Africa, and once we are able to tackle this power in the soil, we would lead the whole world. Therefore, we should put more effort in the direction of research.

Nigeria is blessed with many things. Many things are buried in the ground in the East, North, West and the Mid-West but the trouble is that we have not been able to do

some research into our soil-contents. Until recently, we did not discover iron-ore in this country but I am now happy to say that it has been discovered in commercial quantity, in the Western Region of our Republic. I hope that the Government will do more in this line and help in the tapping of our natural resources by giving adequate aid or assistance to the people or to the area where these resources are found.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief A. O. Airewele :** In associating myself with the previous speakers, first of all I must have to thank the President of the Federation for presenting his usual Speech. In fact, I am very happy that we have such an able man at the head and the special blessing we have received in this country is that the leaders of the Government, the State and other leaders including our President of the Senate are God fearing people. We feel that with these men at the head, we will have nothing to worry us.

It is always said that our Government is being threatened with an attempt to overthrow it or something like that. During the last December elections nobody thought that we would meet like this to-day but with the sense of duty of our leaders, the disagreement was resolved.

People talk about tribalism and suggest that a law should be enacted against tribalism. I personally feel that if tribalism is left alone, it will naturally die away. It would be difficult to enforce any law against tribalism, we may enact such a law, but we may not abide by it.

As we all know, we now have a broad-based Government. I am quite sure that if we had known our Government would be broadly based then there would not have been much fright during the the last Federal Election. There was much fright because every party struggling to win in order to bring in a Prime Minister. God is giving us sense on how to fight and drive away thuggery and tribalism. Thuggery will die away by itself. If there is less fighting during elections and if we can find more jobs for these boys who are parading the streets and who are starving, then the question of thuggery will die away.



[SENATOR CHIEF AIREWELE]

Coming to the Organisation for African Unity, our Government co-operates fully with other States but it is a pity that despite the efforts made in the Congo by our soldiers and policemen who fought day and night to restore peace and tranquillity into that country, one West African country tried to sabotage our efforts. It is a shame on that country. That particular country is a home for rebels and wanted people from all parts of West Africa. Any person who is wanted in his own country runs there and immediately he reaches there, he is safe.

This country I am talking about is no other than Ghana. I think Ghana is only jealous of our influence, our size and our greatness. A Senator mentioned here that if need be, the Mid-Western Region alone should be allowed to face Ghana. I assure Senators that with our intelligence and with Premier Dennis Osadebay's crusade, we will easily overcome Ghana.

But I am appealing to Senators that we should keep silent on this subject. Let us be silent. Let them take it for granted that we do not notice what they are doing. They will be tired if they see that we are not doing anything about it. But when, after sometime, through dead silence and patience, they will eventually be humiliated.

Coming to the subject of education, we are grateful to note from the Speech of the President that the general standard of education will be raised at all levels. Although many Senators have said something about education, it is such a wide subject that everybody especially experienced people in the field, should say something about it.

We know that in the whole country the worst form of primary education is to be found in two regions, the Western and the Mid-Western Regions. What caused this is the free primary education. When we were not ripe we embarked on free education. This made our education to deteriorate. The regions where we have a slightly improved standard of education are the other regions which started their free education after these two regions.

The teachers may be blamed but it is not the fault of teachers. When we have free education everything becomes free and you

find some governments and school proprietors being unnecessarily annoyed sometimes with their teachers. But it is not their fault.

We know that in England and in some other places education is free, but we are not ripe yet. We are just trying to bring up things. I think the government is responsible for the low standard of education. We can think of places like Lagos where we have free education but I am assuring you now that within a few years from now the standard will fall except there is enough money to meet it.

Already there are many children but no schools to accommodate them. The Government is afraid, because to build more schools, it requires money and there is no money. But if, for instance, the schools are made free up to standard three and other classes are fee-paying, I think there would be money for the Government to build more schools for the remaining boys to attend.

We have dragged the Government into making the schools free and they accepted it but with the little resources available they are only able to build very few schools. As a result there are surplus children now, and that is even only in Lagos.

In the Regions they find it very hard to build schools. If one sees the standard in the Western and Mid-Western Regions one will realise that the infant class one of those days is now standard one. In six years, instead of being standard one or so, a boy would have left school.

These children cannot gain admission into secondary schools and this is affecting the secondary schools in these two regions. As a result of this you find teachers doing extra work and at the same time we complain that these teachers are reading for examination purposes in the school. This is not their fault because inasmuch as they are told that except they have better qualifications there will be no advancement for them they have got to struggle. If teachers are paid according to efficiency our usual school standard will be restored.

I can remember that in my own school I had one Grade One teacher who was in charge of History. He presented 28 boys for the School Certificate and out of this number, 27 passed in Grade One. Because of this very many people came to the school to congratulate the teacher. He was a very hardworking man.

But unfortunately after a year or two when he applied for extended scale of salary his application was turned down because he was not qualified.

The teacher was annoyed and came to me to say that he wanted to go to the University to read for a degree. I was very much worried and I met the Education Department, but the next day I heard that they were ready to "snatch" the teacher from me. He is now a travelling teacher in the Education Department.

Why I say that the Government is responsible, especially the Education Department, is that when any teacher is qualified and is doing his work well, if you recommend him to the education department the authorities there will not listen to you.

But when my teacher went to the Education Department they gave him a salary of £621 per annum whereas he was earning £400 before. The teacher who was riding on a push bicycle before now owns a pushing car. I even went to the Education Department to ask for the secondment of this very teacher to me in spite of his promotion but they refused.

All I say is that if teachers are paid well they will do their work well. We can remember the old days when pupils were very good. Teachers were then not very much qualified but they were paid according to their efficiency. But now it is only paper qualification that matters. My learned friend has just stated that in the teacher training college where many graduates were teaching the whole result—

**The President :** The Senator should not say "learned friend" here, it is for the courts.

**Senator Chief Airewele :** The graduates there boasted that they have got paper qualification and whether they teach or not they are not worried because at the end of the month they will get their salary.

I know that the Voluntary Agencies are doing a thankless job on this question of education as some Senators have stated. I am happy that some Regions appreciate their work in this direction but some do not. But time has come when we should see that the work being done improves.

I was happy yesterday to read that Voluntary Agencies will also be ready to do some evening classes to improve the qualification of those who

were previously less qualified. We have got to be very careful with the free primary education otherwise it will do more harm than good in the country. If salaries are paid according to one's efficiency the standard would be improved. Another point in the Speech is the modernisation of agriculture, the development of water resources and medical facilities. If these three things as they are put are executed and extended to the rural areas, I feel that the poor tax-payers in the villages will particularly be too happy because they are the things worrying the people.

About medical facilities, there are some areas where people still suffer from yaws; if medical facilities are extended to these rural areas, I think that yaws and other dreadful diseases will be curbed.

In regard to agriculture, if really the bank is established and the farmers are taught how to modernise their own agricultural system, how to plant their cash and food crops, and if the farmers are able to obtain loan to maintain their crops, I think it will be a very happy arrangement for the farmers.

Another point is water supply. We find that many villages to-day are still drinking pond-water. Very many people have travelled to the rural areas. In my own place, some people are still drinking pond-water. Although we are told that pipe-line facility has been extended to the rural areas, it is enjoyed by very few towns. Other towns are still suffering. People dig the ground in order to obtain water which they then draw and drink. As a result guinea-worm and many other diseases abound in some particular areas.

I feel that if these three things are extended the villagers will be too happy to get them. They are very important to the villagers and although many of us who are living in civilised towns have got some of these things, we need them to be improved and extended to the rural areas.

In our medical unit, I think something is wrong there too. We have a hospital with very many doctors, yet many patients are brought in who do not receive treatment for a day or two. I feel that something must be done in that respect because it appears that some of the doctors are too loose. They take to personal gain without caring for the patients dying in the wards. I feel it is high time our doctors

[SENATOR CHIEF AIREWELE]

were duty-conscious especially those of them who are more qualified than those of the colonial era.

I am surprised that some doctors are not duty-conscious. They say that whatever they are able to do is enough for the country. We say no. We expect more from them. That is why we want more men to be trained.

I learnt some time ago that one Minister said it was better to go and recruit expatriate doctors than retain the present one because they are not doing their duty irrespective of his daily advice to them. It is high time our people knew what they must do. They should do their duty.

With these few words, I beg to support.

**Senator Chief Asuquo Nyon :** It is a matter of deep satisfaction for me to have this opportunity of supporting the Motion of Thanks to our revered President for his Speech at this Budget Meeting of Parliament. Our minds occasionally go back to those turbulent days when the President, as a young journalist, entered the political arena of this country. I think we can here recall that our own President of the Senate was a fellow crusader in those days. With the attainment of independence we recall the way he discharged his ministerial responsibilities.

Now as the Head of State he is the father of the nation, committed to the task of defending our Constitution and doing all that lies in his power to preserve Nigerian unity. It is often not realised what a difficult thing it is to play such a role in a vast Federation such as ours, with people of differing cultures, traditions, religious susceptibilities and social backgrounds.

It is still a controversial matter whether he should merely remain an ineffective figure-head, saying nothing and coming out occasionally with the usual platitudes and idealism and giving everybody a nice pat on the back even if in the name of custom and tradition we are destroying the very foundation of democracy. It is the considered view of some that in the Nigerian context we must have a bold and imaginative leadership from our President, that Nigerians from all parts of the Federation should welcome his views

on burning questions of the day. In fact, such views and ideas as he has expressed have been characterised by a breadth of outlook and a clarity of vision which we should appreciate.

A few days ago, we read about the President expressing his views on certain questions more or less connected with our Constitution. It was the opinion of some that it amounted to washing our dirty linen in public. Actually, these are matters that have to be discussed one way or the other and we know that he has actually said nothing that is not generally known abroad.

Section 41 of our Constitution provides that the Parliament of the Federation shall consist of the President, a Senate and the House of Representatives. Apparently, we all concede to the two arms of the Parliament, namely the Senate and the House of Representatives, the right to unfettered expression of an honest conviction in and out of Parliament. Why should we attempt to gag the third arm? I think within reasonable limits, so long as the President's views are fair and reasonable, these should be encouraged provided they are in the interest of the Republic as a whole.

I think, Fellow Senators, that we have been quite distressed to hear about the attack by hooligans on our Prime Minister. I firmly agree that lawlessness and violence should be entirely eliminated from our society. Our Prime Minister's contribution to the stability and progress of this country has been phenomenal. He is circumspect. He has done his very best, and I think that a man who has made an effort like that and shown such conspicuous ability should not be the victim of hooligans. Something must be done to condemn it totally, and I would like our concern that he was an object of such an action to be expressed to him.

Coming to the Speech, I note with satisfaction in the President's Speech that our foreign policy continues to be that of non-alignment, and that we shall continue to work for understanding and friendship among all the nations of the world without regard to colour, race, or religion, while our policy in Africa is to maintain friendly relations with other African States. We must make it abundantly clear that we shall vehemently

oppose any attempt by any other African State to undermine our influence in world affairs by false propaganda. I refer in this connection to the allegation that Nigerian soldiers have been fighting in the Congo against the Revolutionary Army, an allegation which has been officially denied by the Nigerian High Commission in Dar-es-salaam and by the Nigerian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

It is also satisfying to note that we shall continue to maintain and strengthen our Commonwealth ties. Whatever views we may have about imperialism and however militant our nationalism, there is no doubt that there is a large reserve of goodwill from the older nations of the Commonwealth to the new emergent nations comprising the coloured races, and we therefore should go forward with confidence into that free association of Commonwealth countries.

The intention to raise the general standard of our schools and to relate them to the economic, cultural and social requirements of our country is, indeed, most welcome. The decision to encourage adult education by allowing voluntary agencies to run adult education classes for youngmen and youngwomen is also a progressive measure. I am assuming that this will not be confined to the Federal Territory. The scheme should be extended throughout the country. We happen to have a number of retired teachers who are still able to work, and their matured experience can be made use of. Our ideal is to have an educated democracy, realising what stupendous loss and wastage ignorance entails.

It is noteworthy that the Government will modernise and improve agriculture which is the most important economic pursuit in Nigeria. We from Eastern Nigeria, and I suppose from other parts of the Federal Republic, are indeed in the midst of an agrarian revolution, and it will certainly be a good idea to have the co-operation of the Federal Government in this field.

The Government is concerned with defining more clearly the conditions for granting Nigerian citizenship, and it proposes to amend certain sections of the Constitution of the Federation for that purpose.

At the last Budget Meeting Senators, particularly from the Mid-West paid warm

tribute to the Federal Government for the part played in the creation of Mid-West State. One Senator expressed the hope that the creation of that State will be an inspiration to other parts of the country. It may be that for the next twelve months we shall be pre-occupied with the development programme set down in the President's Speech, but the creation of new States is a most vital question closely bound up with the preservation of Nigerian unity. It is important that it must be kept in view, and here we expect the Federal Government to take the initiative because the broad principles have been accepted. They were, in fact, accepted in the Constitutional Conference of 1958. Here, in this connection, I would beg leave of the President to refer to the opinion of Professor Wheare which we should always note in this question of creating new States. I quote :—

*"The capacity of states to work a federal union is also greatly influenced by their size. It is undesirable that one or two units should be so powerful that they can overrule the others and bend the will of the federal government to themselves. There should not be any one state so much more powerful than the rest as to be capable of vying in strength with many of them combined. If there be such a one, and only one, it will insist on being master of the joint deliberations : if there be two, they will be irresistible when they agree and whenever they differ everything will be decided by a struggle for ascendancy between the rivals. The size of the units concerned—in wealth, area, and population—is therefore of prime importance. There must be some sort of reasonable balance which will ensure that all the units can maintain their independence within the sphere allotted to them and that no one can dominate the others. It must be the task of who frame and work a federal government to see that no unit shall be too large, and equally important, none too small."*

I think that these are very vital principles, and we would do well to consider them because some people in Nigeria feel at the moment that Nigeria is being run by three ethnic groups. The minorities have come into this Federal Republic with faith and hope and feel that the minorities will be protected. We look upon the leaders of those other larger groups that the smaller groups themselves are entitled to have their views considered. If this question is kept in the fore-front we hope

[SENATOR CHIEF NYON]

we will see the need for splitting up this Federation, with a Federal Government with wider powers in the centre and a number of States of equal powers being subject to the Federal Government

With these remarks, I warmly support this Motion of Thanks to the President.

**Senator T. A. Idowu:** I rise to associate myself with the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the President. I realise as others here that we are statesmen and not politicians. It is for us here, after sufficient research into the ills and other things which affect the Federation, to lay down practical solution to other things which are affecting us adversely.

I notice that several Senators have spoken on His Excellency's Speech, particularly on unity and other aspects. I feel that when we come down here we must be able to disabuse the minds of people that we are rubber-stamp. We are not. Among our functions are to move Motions, and if Motions are moved and passed in this Senate I think they would be considered by the Government and the authorities concerned.

We talk about unity. I noticed this morning when Senator Egbuson, Fellow Senator, was congratulating the Clerk of the Parliaments, that among the attributes which he made mention of that youngman was that he is a linguist. He speaks Ibo; he speaks Hausa, and he speaks Yoruba. These make him so much a good mixer so that when he gets to us whatever one's language, he speaks it to one, and I think this is one of the stongest barriers which are worrying Nigeria. But then we must find a solution to this problem. It may not please other people who think they can profit from our disunity.

What is wrong with us? I hope to bring a Motion to the Floor of this Senate very shortly that Yoruba, Ibo, and Hausa should be made compulsory subjects in all our primary and secondary schools in the Federation.

Actually during the colonial era that was the tactic the colonial used amongst us. Thus, they did not allow the Hausa to understand the Yoruba, and the same with the Ibos. But now that we are on our own especially having attained our republican status it is

meet and proper that we should bring this about. Therefore, with a view to finding a solution for understanding amongst us language must be the most powerful thing here.

The English language, to my understanding, is only a thing to facilitate our present communication; it is only a matter of national usage. The same is true of French or any other of the European languages. What about our own languages here? The average Briton will come down here and the first thing he will do is to learn and understand Hausa; he will pass an examination in it. But we the indigeneous Nigerians will not be able to understand it! Even as Yorubas, Ibos or Hausas, we cannot speak or write Yoruba, Ibo or Hausa correctly, and yet we claim to be Nigerians, Yorubas, Ibos or Hausas! I feel that until we do this, all other talk about unity will be meaningless. I feel also that it is a matter which, until it is brought up by a substantive Motion, we will not be able to do anything concrete about it.

Some people talked about thuggery and so on. I feel that Nigerians are not so bad as not to respect authority. When the hon. Minister of Health, Dr Majekodunmi, was the Sole Administrator in the Western Region after the 1962 crisis, he handled the situation very effectively and was very successful; he laid a very good foundation. But when the so-called representative Government went back to power, because our people realised the limitation to their powers and, unlike what Dr Majekodunmi did when he was the Sole Administrator, people came along and did all sorts of things.

I come from Ijebu and my home town is Ijebu-Igbo. I remember the day—the 23rd of August, 1964—when Odufunade was slain and somebody else later at Ijebu Remo, all in the name of politics. Yet we claim that we are peaceful people. We had the Police there and it was within their power to maintain order. It was within the powers of the Regional Government or of the Federal Government for that matter. I intend to seek the approval of this House to bring a Motion very shortly so as to amend certain sections of our ciminal law with a law to making thuggery one of the capital offences, and the punishment should be identical to that for murder. If it cannot come in by way of an amendment

to our criminal law, it should be provided for specifically in the law so that people will have to learn by it.

The Regional elections are coming in the West and only heavens know how many souls will go in with it, merely in the name of politics. And we come here and talk. What are we doing here? I think that this is a very serious matter for the authorities to think about. Every time people complain of thuggery. What is thuggery? It is because there is no sufficient provision in the law against thuggery and the Nigeria Police, even though they are doing their best, lack the necessary powers to cope with the situation. I say that this is a very important issue which must be dealt with urgently.

We are to multiply and not to decrease. I remember it was the late Odunade's father who, when a child was born in Ijebu, sent a telegram to the parents saying, "Congrats, Ijebu population is increased by one". This was because one single soul was added to the population of Ijebu. But what is the position at the moment? People are being murdered and the murderers go scot free. And it is because of politics and all that it entails! I feel that this is a very serious matter which must be dealt with expeditiously.

May I say this, that we must be practical in all our doings. We must show the world that we really know what we are doing. Is it not a paragraph in our National Anthem which says, and with your permission, Mr President, I quote—

*"Though tribes and tongues may differ  
In brotherhood we stand  
Nigerians all and proud to serve  
Our sovereign mother land"*.

It is a pity that after five years we are still where we had been. We attained independence in 1960 and subsequently we attained the republican status; yet we still speak to each other in the English language. This is because it is a legacy left for us by our colonial masters. A lot of us here cannot understand ourselves because of this. What is our *lingua franca* here?

**Several Senators :** English.

**Senator Idowu :** Is it not right that we should have one of our own languages as our official language? What is wrong in adopting Hausa as our *lingua franca*? Before our

independence we read about all sorts of things, especially during those *Zikism* days. We were told that as soon as we had our independence we would evolve our own *lingua franca*. But this is the fifth year since we attained independence and yet we have not been able to evolve our *lingua franca*. In fact, I intend very shortly to bring a Motion to the effect that we should adopt one of our indigenous languages as our *lingua franca* and this will ensure that we know what we are doing.

We may have difficulties from the onset. I do not dispute that. But it is the same with all other things. We had the same difficulty when the British came and taught us their own language. Since then most of us dress in their own and speak in their own. Even to eat *eba* is shameful to us. We must take tea; we must dress gorgeously with ties on, and so on and so forth. When we see anybody wearing his native dress we say, "Oh, this must be a bush man". But I am sure that we are going to be changed men. In this connection, I remember certain personalities who had worked hard to bring dignity to our own culture and tradition.

Now, His Excellency in his Speech made mention of converting the Posts and Telegraphs Department into a quasi-commercial venture. I thought that that institution, long known as palaver and trouble, must have changed. I felt it must have changed to "peace and tranquillity". But I was very wrong! I wonder whether I should not support my Friend, Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku, when he expressed the fear, when this institution becomes a quasi-commercial venture, whether we will not regret it, and whether it is not going to legalise past irregularities. I come from Ijebu, as I said earlier on. As from the 11th of February this year we had not been able to use the telephone outside Ijebu-Ode which is just about forty miles away from the Federal Capital. When we ring here we receive the reply that the line is bad, the line is out of order. If we post any letter from Ijebu-Igbo or Ijebu-Ode, it will not reach here in four months' time! Yet we spend heavily on this particular institution. If one leaves Ijebu-Igbo or Ijebu-Ode for Lagos and sends a telegram to inform his people that he is coming, giving a space of about five days before his arrival, he will come down here on the fifth day to receive the telegram himself. I have had this experience many a time myself

[SENATOR IDOWU]

and I feel that we should do something about this.

I have heard the comments of some Senators on the students and the Provisional Council of the University of Lagos and I feel that, as fathers and statesmen, we must free our minds from partisanship. We must get our boys to respect constituted authority. If the Provisional Council of the University of Lagos has the power to appoint anybody to any post, it is not for the students of the University to meddle with the affairs of the Provisional Council since there is no provision in the regulations authorising them to do this. Although I feel that the Lagos University Law is still to be passed, there are however certain codes by which the University must be run. I feel that the students do not merit our sympathy. I disagree with those Senators who suggested that we should lead a delegation to the Prime Minister. What for? What would we say are the facts in our hands? We respect the intelligence of Dr Eni Njoku and we equally respect the intelligence of Dr Biobaku. We should have expected these people who are leaders of tomorrow to know how to behave. This, to me, is a rebellion on constituted authority and I wonder whether there is provision in the Criminal Code to deal with the situation. These boys should not copy other people who would not be of any use to us in this country. If they have any grievances they have various channels through which they can make them known, but certainly, it is not by destroying properties acquired with the money of taxpayers some of whom have been sent to gaol for failing to pay taxes, taxes which are used to maintain these institutions. Does damaging of properties show any sense of responsibility? I had wished I had the opportunity of being in that place where they are now in; I never had the opportunity. Now that they have the opportunity they should use it to the best interests of the nation.

I feel that the matter is almost settled. The university is to open very shortly and by then I think these boys shall have put on their thinking caps. Personally I do not know how we come in in a matter of this nature. Rather, I think we should get these boys and talk to them individually so that they will behave well in the future.

Next is about water supply. I feel that water supply is in the Concurrent Lists of the Federal and the Regional Governments. But then, the President promised in his Speech from the Throne that the Federal Government would assist Regional Governments to provide water in the Regions. Well, in my own area there is water supply but all the same I know of other areas which are still very much in need of water supply and I think we should do something to help these areas.

There are times when the dignity and the prestige of Senators are not cared for and I think the authorities concerned will have to look into this. We are supposed to be statesmen and perhaps the counterpart of the British House of Lords, and so, what is worth doing at all is worth doing well. My friend, Senator Chief J. M. Egbuson, said something in the morning about the shabby treatment being given to Senators. I think other Senators here share that view. Where there is a function or a party, Senators are expected to stand behind the Members of the House of Representatives. I do not know exactly what the position is, but from what we are told we know that we are statesmen, so the dignity that is commensurate with that position must be accorded to Senators. I hope that this will be looked into, and that by the time we next come here the President, himself being our leader, being the first man in the Senate—and of course we have other Members in the person of Senator Chief Majekodunmi—will see that something is done to remedy the situation. Almost all Senators have complained bitterly about the present situation.

I beg to support.

**Senator (Mrs) B. U. Kerry :** I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency for His Speech from the Throne.

I personally congratulate the hon. Dr A. A. Nwafor Orizu, President of the Senate, on his re-appointment as the President of the Senate. (*Applause*). This is a merit both in education and everything. We ask the Almighty God to help and guide him in this new task of his.

I say welcome to the old and new Senators, more especially His Highness Senator Oba Adeyinka Oyekan II of Lagos. May God help and guide us so that we may perform our duties as the parents of this great nation.

May I take this opportunity also to thank our father, Dr the Honourable Nnamdi Azikiwe, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Head of State, and also our God-fearing father, the Rt. Hon. Alhaji Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, the Head of Government, for their struggle to bring about unity into this country, especially during the last crisis which greatly threatened the existence of the nation. The restraint which was shown at that time was a shining example to the whole world.

I cannot leave out mentioning a personality, Chief J. I. G. Onyia, one of our ablest Senators who also fought for the unity of this country. I also say thanks to our respectable Premiers and Governors, more especially the Premier of Mid-Western Nigeria Chief Dennis Chukudi Osadebay who struggled a lot to avoid the crisis by all means.

I also thank the other hon. Ministers and members of the public who fought directly or indirectly so that we regained peace and unity in this our great country.

The Speech of His Excellency, Dr the hon. Nnamdi Azikiwe, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to both Houses of Parliament covers the demands and hopes of everybody. So many things which will help this country were said by him and the improvement in education comes as the most important because sound education means sound representation. I pray that Almighty God may grant us the strength to solve all these problems.

As regards the projects enumerated in the President's Speech, I would appeal to the Federal Government to remember the Mid-Western Region by giving financial aid to it because the Region is surviving through hardship.

I would not hesitate to commend the Speech of our father, the President of the Nigerian Republic, who has always given shining examples to this nation. During his Presidential Speech yesterday, His Excellency, Dr the hon. Nnamdi Azikiwe, paid tribute to the President of the Nigerian Senate and the Senators *before* any other thing. This is sufficient to educate us. The members of the public should follow this example. Knowledge without the doctrine of respect is incomplete. Senators should be given their proper place in

the scheme of things; respect should be given to those to whom respect is due.

The Federal Government should draw the attention of members of the public to this example laid by our father, His Excellency, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Before I resume my seat, I wish to mention the unemployment problem which is facing our boys and girls and I would like the Federal Government to see that this problem is solved. God being our helper.

I beg to support the Motion of Thanks to his Excellency.

4.35 p.m.

**Senator J. K. Nzerem**: Yesterday both Houses of Parliament listened with rapt attention to His Excellency's Most Gracious Speech from the Throne to mark the opening of the First Session of the Second Parliament of the Republic of Nigeria.

Although the Speech in many ways falls short of my expectation, yet I consider that it will be most unkind not to pay deserving tribute to the President of the Republic, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, who we all respectfully refer to as the father of the nation as well as the Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.

We must pay tribute to them for their spirit of tolerance and statesmanship which they displayed during the recent political and constitutional crisis which shook the Republic to its very foundation. Without the spirit of give and take which they displayed, Nigeria might have been plunged into a bloody civil war and the turmoil in the Congo would have been an insignificant one.

Those who believed in non-violence like myself owe the President and the Prime Minister undying gratitude for their understanding which averted the great calamity.

The Regional Premiers and many other public figures like our President of the Senate; the Chief Justice of Eastern Nigeria Sir Louis Mbanefo; the Chief Justice of the Federation Sir Adetokunbo Ademola, Dr Mbadiwe and others who played such an important role in this matter deserve our eternal thanks. The constitutional crisis that stared us in the face was of such magnitude that only the grace of God saved us.



[SENATOR NZEREM]

While it is true that we have succeeded in scaling another hurdle towards our journey to real democracy, the cause of our trouble has not yet been removed. Many people in this country pay lip-service to unity. Everybody is talking about unity; they say that unity of the country is necessary, but still things happen every day that tend to show that we are not united at all.

They say that we should be talking about things that unite us rather than those things that divide us, but we have a proverb in *Ibo* language which says, "where there is an excreta and you are building, the first thing you should do is to remove the excreta before you put on your roof." So we must tell ourselves some home truth. If we do not do that we are not doing the right thing.

Doctors tell us that if you want to cure a disease you should first of all try to find out its cause; they call it diagnosis. When you find out the cause of our disease, then the battle for curing it is half won. We should therefore examine what was the fundamental cause of our recent crisis.

At the root of the trouble is the inordinate ambition of politicians to cling to power by all means, fair or foul. Those who are elected to the House want to remain in the House for ever whether their people have confidence in them or not.

A Member who is a Minister wants to be a Minister for ever. Have Senators ever seen a Minister in Nigeria resigning? No matter what crime he is charged with, he sits tight. In Eastern Region, we call certain Ministers "sit tight" Ministers. They do not resign. They are never ashamed. Therefore, the trouble will continue unless we make up our minds to fight it. I do not mean that we should fight it physically.

Another thing which causes trouble in this country is this mass organised thuggery and organised hooliganism, and these evils seem to have become a predominant feature of our parliamentary elections.

The Speech from the Throne ought to give us some clue as to what the Government proposes to do to fight them. I was so disappointed that no mention at all was made concerning these evils. Neither the Government nor the President can say that they are not aware of this.

We cannot be painting rosy pictures all the time. Corruption on a large scale no longer appear to be crimes in our Statute Books. I have seen elections in some countries where people contesting are entertained publicly, but this sort of thing is forbidden by our electoral regulations. I challenge any Senator here to deny this.

Although we do not contest elections ourselves, but we see people contesting elections. We must speak the truth, for unless we do that, the trouble will continue. That is why I was disappointed that the Speech of the President did not mention anything about this at all.

I was expecting the Speech to come down very heavily on those politicians who perpetrated trouble during the last Federal elections. Of course, we know the origin of the President's Speech: it was written, sealed and delivered by the politicians.

Nowadays, people do all sorts of things with impunity, and we stand powerless to gaze at them. Is that the way we are going to purge this country of evil? I do not agree, Sir.

I am also disappointed that the Speech made no reference to the much desired comprehensive review of our Constitution apart from the passing reference to the amendment of a section of the Constitution dealing with the granting of Nigerian citizenship. With your permission, Mr President, I will read this portion:

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

Is that what we want in the review of our Constitution? Well I would like to shower encomiums on our beloved Zik. His personality has become a shrine and nobody can afford to say anything bad about him. But I must point out that the Speech was not at all like Zik's previous speeches. I say this truth not minding whose horse is gored.

One would have liked to hear something about the review, if not the complete overhaul of the electoral law of 1962, in which so many flaws were detected during the last Federal Elections.

There are, nevertheless, a lot in the address for which a fair critic cannot but congratulate

the Federal Government. The Government's steadfast policy of non-alignment in the field of foreign relations, and her ability to maintain friendly relations with all African States even in the face of unprovoked attacks, are praiseworthy.

Referring to what happened to our Embassy in Ghana, I can only say that there is a limit to man's patience. Ghana is trying the patience of Nigeria. While I said earlier on, that I believe in non-violence, I can now see that one day the matter may explode. But perhaps Ghana might have learnt her lessons.

The charge that Nigeria was too pro-West, has now exploded. We have succeeded in establishing an Embassy in Russia, and I think, if I am not misinformed, Russia has got an Embassy in Nigeria. So nobody can charge us now of being too pro-West. It now remains for us to exchange Embassies with Israel.

That little country, Israel has made its mark in the scientific and industrial world. Israel has done more than most of the older and more prosperous countries in giving technical assistance to this country.

There is an allegation and a very serious one that Nigeria is getting too involved in the tangle between Israel and the Arab world. Let us prove that this is not true by giving Israel an opportunity of opening its Mission in Nigeria. I can hear a Senator saying that they already have a Mission in Nigeria. I must have been misinformed. If that is so, I withdraw the statement that I have made on that.

In order to strengthen the ties of friendship with the other independent African States, I would urge our amiable Prime Minister to fulfil his much cherished desire of visiting these African states, particularly such countries like Liberia, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia because these countries have very great respect for Nigeria and a visit from our head of Government will only go to strengthen and cement the brotherly feeling that exists between us.

The Speech of his Excellency the President made reference to a long catalogue of Bills to be introduced in the course of this Budget Meeting. This is all well and good. But let me sound a timely note of warning to the Government not to expose itself any more to the charge of rushing important Bills through

Parliament especially through the Senate, thus giving the impression, rightly or wrongly that the Senate merely acts as a rubber stamp.

If, as often as has been the case in the past, the Government were to rush Parliament and call upon it to pass Bills which it has not studied or digested, the impression would be created that the Government has something to hide. I do not think that our Government has anything to hide but I must say that the Government has been fair at least to the Senate. We have complained a number of times about certain treatments and I think the Government has gone out of its way, at least to meet us half-way. So, we should not be too critical of the Government. After all, it is not an easy thing to govern or rule.

I feel disappointed also that the Speech of his Excellency gave no indication as to what the Government will do to eradicate thuggery and hooliganism. Neither life nor property is secure during electioneering campaigns and we are all living witnesses of what happened during the past three or four months. Innocent people, including children have suffered from the havoc of these thugs who are paid by politicians and sometimes by Political Parties to do damage. These thugs are even drugged with the result that they destroy themselves at times. How long shall we continue to look at these things and allow bickerings and rancour to ruin our political campaigns?

I therefore appeal to the Government to introduce legislation against thuggery and hooliganism during elections. I know that it is one thing to make a law and another thing to execute it effectively but let the law be made and we will see to it that it is obeyed.

Another subject I would like to speak on at some length is the recent wave of tribal consciousness. I have said elsewhere, and I repeat here and now, that I do not find anything wrong in one associating oneself with one's tribe. It is a very natural thing. I am proud of being an Ibo man but I am also proud first and foremost of being a Nigerian.

As long as I am a Nigerian, my association with my own tribe cannot be condemned. After all, I have to associate in a special way with people with whom I speak the same language and have the same culture. I do not know of anybody here, be he Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku, Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi,

[SENATOR NZEREM]

Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu, Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba, who will not be proud to say that he belongs to this or that tribe. That is not our trouble at all.

There is no question of legislating against tribalism or tribal unions or some of the things we read about in the newspapers. It is only when we allow our sense of justice to be beclouded by the fact that we belong to one tribe or another that tribalism becomes an evil. So, Mr President, I want to say that those people who waste their time in the newspapers and saying that the head of this department is an Ibo man, the head of that department is a Yoruba man or the head of that department is an Hausa man, are those causing all the trouble in Nigeria.

Roughly twenty years ago or prior to that time, the heads and the sub-heads of departments were mostly expatriates. As expatriates began to go away, Yorubas came in and that is as it should be because the Yorubas were the first to be associated with the white man and to acquire Western education. So, it is only natural that there should be more Yorubas as heads of Government departments but any Yoruba man who thinks that that will remain a permanent feature of the set up in the Government is deceiving himself because as the people in the hinterlands get education and Western civilisation, they too begin to get into the picture and therefore, the number of Yoruba heads and Yoruba sub-heads of departments begin to decrease.

Why do we make such capital of it? I am ashamed of some of the Editors of our newspapers who keep on fanning tribal sentiments. We have heard enough of it and the time has come when we should tell them "thus far and no farther."

Take, for instance, what has happened in the University of Lagos. People have put sentiment into it. I will never support anybody who rebels against authority. But, and that is a big *but*, I will not support any Provisional Council or any council for that matter that will dismiss a man without giving him any reason. If a Vice-Chancellor can be dismissed with impunity like that I do not know where we are heading to. I have very great respect for Professor Eni Njoku; I have great respect for Dr Biobaku too because when I was a member of the Western Nigeria Terms of Service Committee for the

teachers, Dr Biobaku was our Chairman and he was a very erudite and scholarly gentleman. So also is Dr Eni Njoku.

If the Provisional Council wanted to remove Dr Njoku they should have given him some reason, either due to inefficiency or lack of administrative ability. But to just remove a man like that appears to me to be very irregular. So the Provisional Council of the University of Lagos owes this country an explanation. We are doing quite a lot of things in this country and there is indiscipline everywhere.

The other day I went to the Government offices to see somebody. I brought him a stranger from home and he left the office and took the stranger to Yaba and asked somebody to tell anybody who asked for him that he had gone to the Ministry of Establishments. If you go to Government offices you will find a lot of such people. I was a teacher before. If you go to schools the teachers will not teach. Where are we heading to? Drastic disease needs drastic treatment. We have got to take drastic measures in this country, otherwise the country will go to the dogs.

I appeal to the President of the Senate to use his good offices to get Government to find out the root cause of these acts of indiscipline in our schools and institutions of higher learning. We should have inquiry conducted into the reason why the Provisional Council of Lagos University acted as they did. They provoked the demonstration. That is my candid opinion. I do not think that if an ordinary school master is dismissed like that it will cause trouble.

There are two things I want to talk about. About this quasi-commercial status of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, we shall have to see whether we shall not fall from the frying-pan into the fire. There are many things in the Bills that are to be presented and there is the fine talk about the Seven-Year Development Plan. But let us see what they have planned and what they have achieved up till now. We shall call for a progress report because it appears that the more they are planning the less we see being done.

With this, I beg to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency for his Speech from the Throne.

**Senator Chief A. U. Ekefre** : I am happy that I am accorded time to give my consent to the Motion of Thanks to the President for His Speech from the Throne. A lot has been said from morning till now by the Senators who have spoken, and I have yet a few things to say.

I start from the known to the unknown. Some mention was made this afternoon about Inland Waterways. The trouble that people have been undergoing either at Onitshawaterside or Asaba because of the congestion there is too much. I wish there could be any remedy and an immediate one to this problem. This is a matter which concerns both big and small in this country.

I have to say but a few words about the University of Lagos. A Senator has just finished making a remark about either the termination or dismissal of Dr Njoku. Members have been making remarks on how children were doing certain things that were insulting to their parents. I do not have it as such. A man is the master of his own fate. If this House as it is considers that this House is the most senior Parliament in Nigeria, I hope if this House makes a recommendation to the University of Lagos or the Provisional Council and that recommendation was not taken into consideration by the Council, every Senator in this House should consider whether the Provisional Council or the Senate should be respected.

If a father begs his son something and the son refuses, it shows some disrespect. Considering that the Provisional Council had refused the recommendation from the Senate—

**The President** : I hope the Senator understands that the senate is the Senate of the University and not the same Senate as this one.

**Senator Chief Ekefre** : I feel that most Senators were probably teachers when they were young and some are still teachers. They know that children even from the primary school have particular interest in teachers whom they believe can bring them up better. A child can miss a lesson and fail his examination because of the liking the child has for the teacher. As the founder or one of the pioneers of the University, I hope he who sows should be the person to reap. That gentleman should be treated in a way to show that he

suffered for the establishment of such an institution in the country.

Now, I go to the matter of trunk roads. We are always told here and we read from our local papers of accidents on the roads. A major road like the Lagos-Asaba road has very narrow bridges. At the point of these bridges you find cars somersaulted with wheels up. This is because of the narrow bridges. I hope the Federal Government would help to see that bridges on the major trunk roads are extended to the size of the Carter Bridge in Lagos which permits of two cars travelling abreast at the same time.

I feel it appropriate to talk of the review of our Constitution. We should make vital constitutional amendments and arrange things in order in this country. If the present Constitution is not reviewed the country will probably be run in the same way as it was run before and this will not go well. Everything has time and everything must have time to change. "The old order changeth, yielding place to new." The Constitution of Nigeria should be reviewed in the best interests of this great country and of its people.

Probably the former Members of this House had in their time—I am quite a new Member to this House—made mention of the dredging of Opobo Bar. The dredging of Opobo and Oron Bars was one of the major things for which the Federal Government had been sending papers to the people of the area, saying that when money was available the work would be taken on. This is one of the problems which hinder trade in the area.

Although I have very few things to say this afternoon, I wish to draw the attention of this House to an observation I just made this morning. I did not know it. A Member of Parliament—a Senator—asked for an advance to purchase a car. I thought it was money directly given by the Federal Government for the purchase of the vehicle ; I did not know that it was, and still is, a business between the Federal Government and another body. If the Member's application is treated as car advance, who gives the money ? Generally, it is thought that the advance is made by the Government, that is to say that the Government gives the advance to a Member of Parliament to purchase a car. This is the general meaning known by the public, but the truth is that

[SENATOR CHIEF EKEFRE]

this is not a cash advance as such. It is only a matter of trade with a very high rate of interest on the loan which is not directly paid to the Government. For some Members the repayment of the loan by instalments may be up to £50 or £60. What then is there in being a member of Parliament? I think this should be explained clearly to new Members who are here that this is not cash advance from the Government, as is thought, but an advance from some other source.

One of the most paramount points that this House should talk about is the Judiciary. The Judiciary in this country should be under the Federal Government. It should not be under the Regional Governments. It should be brought to the same line so that justice may not suffer in some quarters.

Before I sit down, I would like to say something about the trouble which threatened this country but which was stopped by our able leaders in the persons of His Excellency the President, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, and our able Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa. The Satan knows how to think sometimes and knows also how to stir up trouble and convince people to disobey God. If anything happens, and we hope nothing is going to happen, we can count on such leaders to settle it peacefully. As fathers of the nation we must do our very best to clear ourselves of politics. I feel most of the Members of this House are no politicians. We should deplore the formation of gangs of thugs by the politicians to fight against Members and important people in Nigeria.

**Senator Chief E. E. Boyo** : His Excellency Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, has outlined an ambitious and far reaching programme of development to be undertaken by the Federal Government which will no doubt receive our unqualified support.

In recent times, the image of our beloved country and its government have, perhaps unjustifiably, been the objects of adverse and severe criticisms both here in Africa and abroad. In Africa we had thought that our claim to constructive and imaginative leadership was unassailable.

That our country and our aims should now be misunderstood and even misrepresented

must be of considerable concern to us all. It is, therefore, gratifying that every effort will be made by our Government to redeem some or all of the grounds that we may inadvertently have lost as a result either of lack of vigilance or of a basic assumption that leadership within Africa must fall to us as of right.

Nigeria is indeed favourably and particularly well placed to vie for this leadership but she must also of necessity first earn the right to bid for it.

I feel therefore that our Government must not spare itself in all its efforts to involve itself and the people of this country in all aspects of the political and intellectual development of the continent of Africa.

The readiness of our Government to have the Scientific and Research Commission of the O.A.U. sited in Nigeria notwithstanding any adverse drains on our national resources is most commendable and most welcome; as it is, indeed, primarily through the development that will result from research and technology—more so when Africans themselves are involved in both—that Africa can make her rightful claim for its place amongst the family of nations.

I would like to remind the Government about the bridges on the Benin-Ijebu Road which are too narrow. Arrangements should be made to widen them so as to save accidents. Already few accidents have occurred there.

I beg to support the Motion of Thanks.

**Senator Chief R. A. Umoh** : I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the President for his Speech. In supporting it I have a few remarks to make one of which concerns the great emphasis laid on African unity.

Our readiness to support and do everything to see that there is unity in Africa is welcome. But here in Nigeria if we take for an example a Minister of State who has a very troublesome wife that does not allow him to rest at home, it is only right to say that he would not be able to think of doing any good for the State. It is the peace that one has at home that gives one the impetus for external issues.

Is it very good for people to hear that we are sitting in the Parliament making preparations to do this and that when internally one is not

free to travel in one's country? It is wonderful, and I really mean it if I say that I hate to hear it. I think that we should do something about it.

I have to thank the President of our Republic for all he has tried to do as a uniting factor, and I also thank the Prime Minister. But I would wish that all the Premiers of the Regions conglomerate in a way and try to see things for themselves. I know that to be a leader one not be a sectional leader. Every leader is appointed by God, and if God has made one a leader in any section of this country one must make oneself a father of all irrespective of where the followers come from.

It is most disheartening to find that a Nigerian is not free to move one way or the other in Nigeria as a Nigerian, and we go out to organise others for the sake of peace in a very big place like Africa when we cannot even manage Nigeria. It is wonderful.

We are making statements everytime. We make statements, and instead of getting the people together we are making people to stay apart—one hating the other. No responsible man who calls himself a man of position, or a politician who has the real interest of his own people at heart, would fail to be wary of what he says because there are so many others following him behind.

It is just like a man of a very great family. If such a man wants to cry he should not cry openly. He should cry in private. If he wants to say anything that he knows would be scandalous he should say it in private and should not allow his children to see or hear it. If they hear that the father is crying the whole family will be in uproar, and everybody will begin to cry.

If one is then a leader of a nation, or, as it were, a leader of a section of this nation one must beware of the pronouncements one makes in the public, because as soon as one makes a pronouncement, if one is a Premier, other Ministers must take after one's attitude, and instead of building the nation one will be destroying it. That is the great concern of the Senate, the Upper House. After all we are the fathers and mothers of the country, and we must call a spade a spade.

So we must think of a way. I would have very much liked to hear something. There is something lacking here. I would very much

have liked to hear from the Speech of the President the measures we are going to take to prevent those types of speeches which destroy rather than build.

All these factors are going to destroy this nation instead of helping to build it. There ought to be a provision which would have helped us to set our house in order before we begin to think of what is happening outside.

This is just like an old story that I have narrated here several times. When my father was alive he was fond of saying something which I now see in our nation to-day. He used to say that if one builds one's family very peacefully then one can hope to have a very strong family and this would enable one to stand and face one's enemies.

Why not get common sticks and tie them together and give each of the leaders of this country to break? If they cannot break the collection, one should loosen it and let them break the sticks one by one. If they are able to do this, they will realise that in unity lies power.

No matter how powerful one may claim to be, by standing alone one cannot have the power that God has given to two or three people unless one unites with other powers to make this nation what it should be. So, that is my main concern in this very issue.

If we can do that, we can very well turn our attention to bringing about the unity of Africa otherwise people would simply laugh at us.

We were talking about what was happening in Ghana. We do not know the cause of that. When somebody finds that your house is in disorder when you are far away, he can do anything to you. If we start to shout that what is going on in Ghana is very bad we are not doing it wholeheartedly because there is no true unity here in our own country.

If that unity is here and anything happened to me, then the other man would feel it. But if the unity is not there and anything happened, the other man would not feel it. If that other man talks about it, it is not from his own heart. The enemies seize such a chance to destroy one. Therefore, my main concern to-day is the rebuilding of peace and unity in this country.

If I remain in the Mid-West let me feel that the Mid-West is my own place, and that I am secure.

[SENATOR CHIEF UMOH]

If I remain in the West let me feel that I am secure in the West, and if I approach the Premier to tell him what I want let me feel at home. The same thing applies to the North and the East.

There is one trouble about the matter of trying to set up agricultural industries. Whatever we are going to do about agriculture I have a very great thing in mind, because I have brought this matter to the Senate several times. Let us suppose that one has a piece of land and that one has no means of developing it what will happen? The Government can only help in the way of doing research and trying to teach us the proper method of planting so as to improve our standard of living. Actually, that is the beginning of improvement. If one has all the goods and the production in the very right way then one can improve on one's standard of living.

But then shall we all believe that it is going to be a matter of the Gospel where only the rich shall grow richer. If one has only one talent, and if one does not use it well, it will be taken from one and given to somebody who will use it abundantly and who can develop it. I am talking about the method of granting loans to people in this Federation.

Before anyone can get a loan worth £10,000 from the Federal Government it must be shown that one owns a building worth £10,000 or more. If one has £10,000 either in cash or in kind, why should one want a loan? It is unthinkable to learn that when a farmer who produces foodstuff—mass production of foodstuff—goes over to get some sort of loan he or she would be asked to give a security of about £1,000 before £50 could be given to him or her. How are we working?

It is only those in Lagos who have got fabulous amount of money and mansions upon mansions that can get a large sum of money. Even your own prestige as a Senator cannot win you the grant of a loan. Loans are given to those who are already established. By putting this before Senators, I am asking that we should look into it.

In order to improve agriculture, it is not the people living in the towns who will go to work in the farms. It is the poor women and the peasants who are working in their respective farms and loans should be given

to help them from time to time. They should be made to repay the loan in accordance with their financial capabilities.

The Government should give them enough consideration, and they should not be given the type of measure that Government is giving the people at the moment. I actually went to the place and studied the issue. What I am saying is what I know.

Well, we now go to other matters. I have to bring this to the notice of the Senate. I think there are lots of dwindlings rather than improvements in certain matters. In the very flats we are living here in Lagos we can never get water for cooking. I have been experiencing this ever since I came down here. My housemaid has all the time been getting water from the bathroom.

For a good number of days now there has been no water for cooking, because there is no water in the kitchen. When I came down here the other time it was like that. We should rectify things internally. At least when the Government knows that Senators are coming—not only Senators but also Members of the Lower House—proper arrangements ought to be made for their accommodation.

It is really a pity that I have even to remark that even the chairs that one finds in the flats for the Parliamentarians are not befitting their status. There are no good cushions. There is nothing to cover them, and where they are covered whatever is used to cover them would remain there for a long time, perhaps for a month. It is surprising, and I am afraid I do not want to say that I have heard it remarked outside. It is good to look into this little things. This is one of the things which gives prestige to us.

Anybody that gets in would say that Senators are living in a beautiful block of flats, but when they get into it they find that it is not befitting our status. The prestige is gone. Therefore, these little things have got a lot to do with our prestige.

As regards this telephone issue, whatever is going to be done should be made clear, and I would like to be assured that the situation is not going to be worsened. I was thinking that a real improvement would come by extending this service to the rural areas. I have one thing to remark here, and I do not want people from that Region to get annoyed,

because it is my own Region as well. I remember travelling to a certain town and the development there is marvellous, but when one gets to the rural areas one finds that they are not worth anything.

Development of rural areas should engage our attention now because we do not want the present mass exodus from the villages to the towns to continue.

Boys and girls who have read about all the fine things in big towns would like to enjoy them. If we all leave the villages I wonder who will till all the pieces of land we have there.

If the people in the villages come over to Lagos, Enugu, Kano, Kaduna and all the other big towns, the villages are deserted because there is a lack of amenity in the rural areas. We can establish a sort of small town in the rural areas by providing them with pipe-borne water and electricity.

Telephone service should also be extended to the rural areas. It should not be limited only to big towns.

I am very grateful for being given the privilege to express my point of view, but I have a little remark to make. I have to give my personal congratulation to the President of the Senate and all the old Senators whom the Lord has brought back to the Senate.

I also extend my congratulation to the new Senators. I must say that I am surprised that no specific mention has been made about religious tolerance. I think that possibly a change of curriculum would have a lot to do as regards religious practices, because if we really want to rectify things in this country, no matter whichever religion one embraces, we must take religion into consideration.

If one can possess a clear conscience one will know how to deal with others. If one's conscience is not clear, as a matter of fact, until one does the worst thing one would not feel it. So, I really feel that religious issue should be taken into consideration.

I am always very happy when people make mention of the Prime Minister and refer to him as a God-fearing man. I think this should have some influence on other people. I think

also that if we should have many God-fearing people like the Prime Minister conditions of things should improve in this country. Therefore, I suggest that we should get all God-fearing and religious people together and let them pray for this great country. We should do this because God is the only protector, He is the only saviour and He is the only hope of this country. Without Him nothing is going to be right, but with Him everything is going to be well with us.

I support the Motion.

**Senator Chief P. C. Ndu :** Much has been said about the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency for his Speech, and I join those who have spoken before me in congratulating him for the very able Speech he delivered to the Joint Sitting of both Houses of Parliament.

Now, I have to associate myself with the Senators who have spoken earlier on education in Nigeria. I agree with those who have said that the standard of education in Nigeria is falling, and I am sure that Senators will agree with me that it is more on the teaching of morals. What happened very recently when the Prime Minister's car was stoned is a pointer to this moral degeneration on the part of our young people. If such people when they were children had been taught in school to behave properly in accordance with the moral instructions given to them by their teachers, such incidents could not have taken place.

There are, however, some other things which are responsible for these things. Some of our youngsters who have had nothing to do since they left school indulge in evil behaviours, and I still maintain that these youngsters did not receive adequate moral instructions when they were in school. This has really damaged their characters and general behaviours. It is quite true that if children are being brought up well in the way of God, they will not behave in the way people are behaving nowadays. Thus, I should like to say that it is of great importance that our children should adhere to moral teachings when they are in school. I think it is not too much to expect our children to listen to moral instructions, apart from all the other things they have to



[SENATOR CHIEF UMOH]

learn, but some of our young people do not give attention to moral instructions given to them. They choose to pay attention only to such things as the English language, arithmetic and so on. But then what benefit have these things to the nation without proper moral behaviours on the part of our young people ?

*And it being 5.45 p.m. the President proceeded to interrupt the Business, pursuant to Standing Order 4 (3).*

*Debate to be resumed, Tomorrow.*

## ADJOURNMENT

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

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved : That this House do now adjourn.*

*Adjourned accordingly at ten minutes to six o'clock.*

SENATE OF THE FEDERAL  
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Friday, 26th March, 1965

The Senate met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

NOTICE OF MOTION

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

**The Minister of Health and Information**  
(Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi): I beg to move—

That Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba, Senator J. K. Nzerem, Senator Chief S. O. Longe and Senator E. I. Onewokae be members of the Committee of Selection.

I beg to move.

**Senator M. G. Ejaife** : I beg to second.

**Senator Chief J. I. G. Onyia** : I do not know how this selection was done and I wish to know, because the Senators from the Mid-West were unanimous in making the selection of one who would represent them on this Committee.

Last year the same mistake was made—after we had agreed upon the Senator who was to represent us on this Committee, later on Senator Chief Frank Oputa-Otutu was put up. We criticised it. Again this has occurred: somebody else has been put. Not that the person who has been put is not a good man from the Mid-Western Region, but he was not the choice of the Senators from the Mid-West, and I do not know why he is now the one selected. I do not know whether the Minister of Health and Information has the unquestionable right of selecting people at random without first ascertaining the wishes of the people so concerned. I want to say that, Senators from the Mid-West are strongly opposed to the selection of Senator Onewokae without consultation with the people so concerned.

**Senator Chief Ezeogo Ugwuocha** : I wish to correct what Senator Chief Onyia has said, that in the appointment of Members of the Selection Committee, Senators from each of the Regions must be consulted. This has not been the case. I wish to make this clear to him.

**Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku** : I want the Leader of the Senate to confirm that this Selection Committee is the Selection Committee referred to under Standing Order 51 (2). If that is so, with your permission, I shall proceed to read it :

51 (2). *The Committee of Selection shall consist of the President, the Deputy President who may take the chair in the absence of the President as Chairman, three members of the Council of Ministers to be nominated by that Council, and four Senators who are not members of the Council of Ministers, to be elected by the Senate.*

**Senator Chief Majekodunmi** : I think in order not to cause any misunderstanding, I wish to assure Senator Chief Onyia that there is no intention whatsoever to impose any representative of the Mid-West on the Senators from the Mid-West or, indeed, on the Senate. This is the practice which we have adopted from the inception of this Senate. These names are usually suggested by the Clerk of the Senate and, in consultation with the leaders of the Senators from each Region, we put down the names for membership of the Committee of Selection. We have tried as far as possible to give opportunities to as many Members as possible to serve on Committees of the Senate, and Senators will appreciate that the Committee of Selection is only a Committee which probably meets once in a Session because unless a Senator dies, it is not necessary for the Committee of Selection ever to meet again. This Committee of Selection is the Committee which will meet to select members of the other Committees in which, of course, all the Senators must be consulted.

This Committee, of course, is one which is itself very limited in scope. It will sit once and it will elect members of the other Committees. But it cannot select all the members of the other Committees without consultation with those Senators who have come from the various Regions. That is why we have put down those. In fact, many of these people who are being proposed are new Senators, and that is why we have put them because it will give them an opportunity to serve on any committee of the Senate. The Standing Orders Committee, for instance, and the Committee

[SENATOR CHIEF MAJEKODUNMI]  
on the Prerogative of Mercy—these are Committees which will probably have the opportunity of meeting from time to time. That is why this arrangement is made.

But this is a Motion ; it is not a Government Motion. If it is not the wish of the Senate that we should appoint these Senators as members of the Committee of Selection, I assure Senator Chief Onyia that I have no objection whatsoever and the Motion could be amended or deleted or even defeated. So, I have no strong feelings whatsoever about these Senators being members of the Committee of Selection.

**Senator Chief Onyia :** The point at issue is what is stated in the speech of the Minister of Health and Information, that the leader of the Senators from each Region is always consulted. In this case the leader of the Senators from the Mid-West was not consulted. That is the point.

Furthermore, if we are to go strictly according to the stipulation of Standing Order 51, these members of the Selection Committee are supposed to be nominated by somebody here, which means that anybody can stand up here and nominate anybody to be a member of this Committee ; or if the procedure is what has been stated, the leader of the Mid-Western Senators should have been consulted.

**The President :** If that is all right with Senator Chief Onyia, then we can proceed.

**Senator Chief Onyia :** The Senators from the Mid-West are not satisfied with the selection made.

**Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku :** I have no strong feelings because the Minister of Health and Information has explained that what he now puts before us is a suggestion and that it is for us to approve, and once we have approved it the selection would have been made by the Senate.

I appeal to my father, Senator Chief Onyia, to forgo his views on this matter. I would suggest, and it could be placed on record for future guidance, that rather than delaying the work of the Senate, I appeal to my father that he should waive his objection and we adopt this as a suggestion. If we adopt it, then it means that the whole thing would have been done by the Senate.

**The President :** I think that Senators ought to understand that we are trying to make the Senate totally a House above party politics. I have been a Senator for many years here and I know that this is what we have been doing. I was leading the Eastern Senators then. If one Senator comes in here and nominates one person and another one stands up and nominates another, it would mean that we are trying to bring politics into the Senate, and Government is trying to avoid politics in the Senate.

I am glad that Senator Chief Onyia has abandoned his strong views, and so we move on.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved :* That Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba, Senator J. K. Nzerem, Senator Chief S. O. Longe and Senator E. I. Onwokae be members of the Committee of Selection.

#### ORDER OF THE DAY

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH (MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS)

ADJOURNED DEBATE ON QUESTION (25TH MARCH) :

*Question again proposed,* That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency, the President, as followeth :

“Your Excellency,

We the Members of the Senate here assembled beg leave to thank Your Excellency for the Speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both Houses of Parliament.”

**Senator Chief P. C. Ndu :** I would now like to continue with my speech on education which was interrupted on the moment of adjournment yesterday.

It will be gratifying if the educational system of this country is standardised at the federal level. I would like the Federal Government to see to it that the School Certificate is acceptable anywhere in the Federation—whether acquired in the North, East, West or in the Federal territory of Lagos. If this is done, it will have dignity and honour.

I would like to make a few observations on agriculture. I congratulate the Federal Government on its foresight in the improvement of

agriculture. With your permission, Mr President, I would like to read from page 6 of His Excellency's Speech :—

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

The three million pounds which has been earmarked should be advanced to the poor farmers without any strings attached. The poor farmers should not be asked to produce evidence of credit-worthiness before they are given loans. If a farmer is credit-worthy he will not borrow money. I am talking from experience. If a farmer is to be advanced the sum of £50, he will be asked to show an evidence that he is credit-worthy up to the tune of £200. Any farmer who is worth £200 will not be looking for a loan of £50.

In the past agriculture has been the exclusive concern of the Regional Governments, with the exception of research, and I am happy now that the Federal Government has decided to improve agriculture so as to ease the soaring cost of living and also the unemployment problem facing our young school-leavers. As agriculture is the mainstay of our economy, the Federal Government should do everything in its power to improve it.

It is interesting to note that the Federal Government will encourage the development of water resources so as to provide urban and rural areas with water supplies especially in the drier parts of the Federation. The people in rural areas look upon the Federal Government as a God-fearing government and they will be happy with the announcement that they are to have improved water supplies. Some people living in the rural areas fail to appreciate the meaning of independence without good water to drink. When a child is born,

his first food is water. People can even stay without food for some days, but not without water; water is the prime necessity of life.

In some parts of Northern and Eastern Nigeria some people travel four to five miles to get good water to drink, and some too drink water tapped from trees. When nothing comes out of these trees in the night they have to travel four to five miles in search of good water to drink. This is very appalling. People living in the townships do not know the sufferings of those people who live in the rural areas. Some young men leave the rural areas for the townships because of scarcity of water to drink. When a person has water to drink then he looks for other things. That is why I congratulate the Federal Government on its foresight in this direction.

Speaking about Ghana, my word of advice to Ghana is that it will be absolutely out of proportion for a tortoise to knock horns with an elephant.

With these few remarks, I support the Motion.

**Senator Chief Ezeogo Ugwuocha :** I wish to associate myself with other hon. Senators who have spoken on the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Nigeria.

Going through the speech I observe that it was silent on the unity of this Federation. Anyone who is a true lover of this country would naturally expect the Government to devise ways and means of welding the country together and ensuring peace and maintaining our hard-won freedom.

Tribalism, with all its attendant evils, has eaten deep into our marrows. Last year, on the Floor of this Senate, we talked a lot on this issue. When tribal war was raging, we came here and exposed it. The radio even helped to fan this tribal war with the result that all over the country there was the sentimentality of tribal hatred.

Now, I suggest that there should be a national reconstruction, but I doubt whether this will be carried out satisfactorily by politicians. It will be reassuring if the Heads of our Government could appoint some intellectuals in Constitutional laws to go through our Constitution and recommend necessary changes.

[SENATOR CHIEF EZEOGO UGWUOCHA]

The Federal Republic of Nigeria should have a Constitution to reflect the federal nature of our country. To have all powers invested in one man, be he the President or the Prime Minister, will not be workable.

We have the materials—the diversity of our people, the abundance of legal experts, our history, and above all, our pride. Wherever people of one race dominate those of another race without their consent, then we have imperialism. Let every Nigerian know that we are prepared to pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend or oppose any foe in order to ensure the survival and success of liberty.

All this will take time. It will not be accomplished in a hundred years. It may not be accomplished in our life time on this planet, but let us begin. Now the trumpet calls us again, not to battle, though in battle we are, but to bear the burden of a long twilight struggle year in, year out, rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation—a struggle against the common enemies of man, tyranny and war itself.

**Senator Chief R. A. Babalola :** On a point of order, the Senator has confined himself to reading his speech instead of addressing himself to the President. The Standing Order provides that a Senator shall not read his speech, but that he may read short extracts from books or papers.

**The President :** That was a good point of order, but I presume the Senator was reading an extract. I hope he would do less of reading and more of addressing himself to the President.

**Senator Chief Ugwuocha :** As I was saying, we should not shirk our responsibilities. I do not believe any of us would like to change places with other races or other generations. The energy, the force and the devotion which we bring to this endeavour will keep our country together, and the glow from the fire of our endeavour can truly consume tribal wars.

I wish at this point, to suggest to the Prime Minister that he should make an extensive tour of the country. The people in the rural areas want to know the Prime Minister. It is good for them to know who their Prime Minister is. Let the Prime Minister take note of this.

Two years ago, in this Senate, there was a debate about allocating £65,000 to the boxing

tournament at Ibadan. We said that this money should rather be used to widen some of our roads or invested in an industry. Most of us felt that way, but when we were told that by using this money in this wise we shall be projecting the image of this country, we accepted the idea. It is sour and awful that the Federation of Nigeria could not afford to build a National Stadium. I would very much like the Federal Government to squeeze out money and build a National Stadium in the capital of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Another point I would like to speak on is about the prisons in Afikpo and Abakaliki Division. It is a shame that with the present modern outlook of Nigeria, the prisons in Afikpo and Abakaliki are still built of mud.

I appeal to the Minister concerned to look into this matter and see to it that better buildings are put up in these places as has been done in many other places. This point is very important because if prisoners are not well looked after, they might get angry and start using matchets on people and then it would be broadcast that prisoners in Afikpo and Abakaliki division have murdered such and such a person. To avoid such a situation arising, these prisoners should be harboured in good buildings.

Senators, especially Senator J. K. Nzerem, yesterday did talk on points which I could have liked to talk on but it has not been my practice to repeat what other senators have said.

With these few remarks, I therefore, support the Motion of Thanks to his Excellency the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

**Senator Chief R. A. Babalola :** I rise to associate myself with previous speakers on this Motion of Thanks to our respected President. Since Senator J. K. Nzerem yesterday spoke extensively on most of the points I would like to speak on, I would not like to waste the time of Senators by repeating Senator Nzerem's speech. But I would like to say something on the question of Nigerian unity.

It appears to me, and looking around here I have no doubt, that I am the youngest Senator. Do we have to come here, year in year out to say we want Nigerian unity? I think we have said a lot about Nigerian unity. The time has now come for us to think seriously on what steps we should take with a view to bringing

lasting unity and solidarity to this great Republic of Nigeria. Everybody wants unity; even animals want unity. They want to live together in peace. If as has been suggested by some Senators, we have to lead a delegation to the Prime Minister, the delegation should be led on this question of Nigerian unity because this year we must find a solution to this question of disunity; otherwise, it is no use coming here next year and start talking again about Nigerian unity. What we achieve now will be taken note of when the history of this country is to be written.

When we talk about unity, we should consider it simultaneously with peace in this country. It is one thing to be united and another thing to have peace.

I have heard some Senators talk about a revision of our Constitution. Before we talk about amending our Constitution, we should search our minds and conscience once again. I remember that it was only in 1963 we made our Constitution and decided to abide by it and with your permission, Mr President, I beg to quote the following from page 7 of our Constitution:—

*Having firmly resolved to establish the Federal Republic of Nigeria,*

*With a view to ensuring the unity of our people and faith in our fatherland,*

*For the purpose of promoting inter-African co-operation and solidarity,*

*In order to assure world peace and international understanding, and*

*So as to further the ends of liberty, equality and justice both in our country and in the world at large,*

*We the people of Nigeria, by our representatives here in Parliament assembled, do hereby declare, enact and give to ourselves the following Constitution —*

The main essence of my reading this extract, Mr President, is that in 1963 we made this Constitution and decided then to abide by it. At that time we were not forced to accept the Constitution and so if we are thinking of amending our Constitution again, we should search our minds properly and make sure that after amending it this time, we are going to abide by it.

I do not want to open healed wounds but I will refer particularly to the last crisis which has got something to do with the Constitution. I only want to point out that it is not everything that we agree to do that we live up to. With the permission of the President, I beg to quote from the Constitution. If you look at Section 51 (6) it is said that:—

*“For the purposes of this section the number of inhabitants of Nigeria or any part thereof shall be ascertained by reference to the latest census of the population of Nigeria held in pursuance of an Act of Parliament.”*

That was one of the things we agreed to in 1963. We agreed to it and it was accepted, but let us see what followed afterwards. It was not up to three years afterwards when we forgot everything that we agreed to. We fought over the census issue though we should thank God that the whole trouble was settled.

There is still another point on which I would like to talk and if you allow me Mr, President I would like to quote once more from the Constitution—Section 53 (1) states that:—

*“Subject to the provisions of section 115 of this Constitution, the competent High Court shall have original jurisdiction to hear and determine any question whether—*

*(a) any person has been validly selected as a Senator or elected as a member of the House of Representatives—”*

**Senator E. A. Lamai :** On a point of order, I think that the Senator's points of address are not as contained in the Speech from the Throne. They are more of things which incite and confuse.

**The President :** I think the Senator Chief Babalola will be a little bit more relevant.

**Senator Chief Babalola :** People who have spoken before me referred to the Constitution and said that we should amend our Constitution. I agreed with them on that point, but I say that once we agree to amend this Constitution we must try at all costs to abide by it.

My second point is this. I consider after reading through the President's address that there are two significant points missing in it and one of them is that the Government has failed to tell us what plans it has to regulate

[SENATOR CHIEF BABALOLA]

the allocation of crown land, particularly in the Federal Territory of Lagos. This should be so because if we want unity there must be peace simultaneously with unity.

The common men who elect the Members of the House of Representatives are expecting much from these Members. What will you think of an elector who helps to vote in a candidate to the House of Representatives and within four or five years—

**Senator Lamai :** On a point of order, the Senator is imputing motives.

**Senator Chief Babalola :** The point that I am trying to make is that we the appointed Senators and the elected Members of the House of Representatives are sent here with a view to representing the interest and welfare of the people and with a view to improving the economic stability of the country.

Do you think we can have peace if within five years that a man is elected from his constituency he has already put up four or five houses? Do you think that such a Member can go back to his constituency and make peace there? And yet we turn round to blame some people that they are thugs. When we talk of Nigerian unity we must consider it simultaneously with peace.

We cannot have peace if one person is happy and satisfied or over-satisfied and another is not satisfied.

**Senator Lamai :** The Senator is insinuating.

**The President :** I think the only fault of the Senator is irrelevancy. He is not insinuating. I think he will have to find a way of adapting his speech to the points raised in the President's Speech from the Throne.

**Senator Chief Babalola :** I now go to another important point in the Address and that concerns the Six-Year Development Plan. As it was said yesterday by one Senator, we would like to see that every one of the points enumerated in this Plan is fulfilled. We are fed up with hearing that this and that will be done as soon as possible.

The bulk of our people, the common men live in the rural areas. When we want to site big industries, therefore, efforts should be made by the Government to see to it that all

these things are practically demonstrated in the rural areas. This is because we do not want to go to the East, for example, and limit all the industries to Port Harcourt or Enugu; or to the West and limit them to Ibadan or Abeokuta, and go to the North and limit them to Kano.

My third point on the Address concerns trade fairs. I was particularly happy to read about this in the President's Address. But I would like to suggest that when there is any trade fair or exhibition in Europe as we have been told in the Address, Government should have it in mind that Nigeria needs businessmen who can go overseas and see for themselves and bring back to this country what economic stability in trade and commerce that they feel would be in the best interest of Nigeria.

We should not just send people who will go there to watch things being displayed. We want people who will be there to see that something tangible is brought back to this country.

On the question of education, several speakers have particularly said something about the University of Lagos. I agree with them on the points they raised. But the only thing I would like to add is that we have been told—and I am making particular reference to what happened there recently—that the outgoing principal is good and that the man coming in is good too. If we Nigerians could leave the trouble in the University to our leaders to settle, I think every thing would soon be settled.

If we do not use ourselves as instruments of confusion in the institution I think there will be no trouble there. If we leave it to the appropriate authorities who are capable of seeing to it that an amicable settlement is made in the University, we shall have a continued peace.

Some people are saying that Senators are nothing but "rubber stamps". Well, I associate myself with all the speakers on this point, but I think we will have to watch the politicians who still think that we are "rubber stamps". They have their sense of judgment. If they say we are rubber stamps, I think we can prove that we are not only rubber stamps but also "iron stamps".

If anything is passed in the Lower House, we debate it here when it is brought to us. Now we are debating the Address given by the

President. I do not see how we can be referred to as rubber stamps. I think one day we shall use our big stick on them with the support of our President, and they will realise that we are no rubber stamps.

Finally, I have to thank the President, and the Prime Minister of this Republic. When we talk of perfection, I think it is only God that has the exclusive right to perfection. Nobody else is perfect.

I think history will record that we have been very lucky in Nigeria to have people of the calibre of the President, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, and the Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, at a time like this.

To-day we are here debating. If these two leaders had not compromised during the last crisis, I do not think any of us would have had the opportunity of coming here to-day. I think that when we thank them, we must also be thankful to God and at the same time to ourselves. We have learnt our lesson.

I pray to God that there will be no recurrence of any constitutional crisis which will lead to disunity in this great country in future. When a man opens his mouth to say something that he himself does not believe, at that moment he does not constitute a deceit to himself alone but also to his nation.

So, my fellow Senators, whenever we come here and say something let us go outside and demonstrate it. Let us demonstrate the unity that we all preach daily for the progress and economic stability of this great country.

I beg to support.

**Senator Abdulai Lamurde :** I beg to support the Motion of Thanks for the Address given by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Much has been said about the speech but I am a bit disappointed by some of the speakers. Some Senators seem to connect this House with politics because there was a matter mentioned here yesterday which we are not supposed to mention in this House.

If there is a demand for it, I think it should come from the Lower House. If there is a demand for the amendment of the Constitution of Nigeria, it is the Lower House (the Members of which are politicians) that should concern itself with it. Ours is to support what the Lower House has proposed.

**Several Senators :** No !

**Senator A. E. Ukattah :** On a point of information, we are not here to support whatever has been said in the Lower House. So, the statement of the Senator is incorrect.

**The President :** I hope the Senator will take the correction.

**Senator Lamurde :** Really, I do not think we are going to support all that is brought to us but there are things which we have to support if we find them necessary.

Anyway, there is an important matter which is left out and Senators have not touched upon it. That is disease control. I have something in mind which I want to point out to the Government. There is a part of Sardauna Province which was heavily populated before and where there was a lot of livestock.

For about 10 years now the population of that area has been decreasing from day to day. This is caused by a heavy infestation of tsetse fly. That area is on the boundary of Nigeria and Cameroun. The eradication of the fly will be possible if the Federal Government co-operates with the Cameroun Republic.

The Northern Nigeria Government has not done anything about it and I think it is the Federal Government that should look into this matter. It is very important.

The inhabitants lost completely their livestock and deserted the place because of the disease of sleeping-sickness caused by tsetse fly. That is the trouble with that area.

Another thing which I would like to point out is about roads. In parts of the newly formed Sardauna Province, there is no traffic in the rainy season. That place used to be cut off completely because of bad roads. There is no tarred road in that Province.

There is a trunk 'A' road but that trunk 'A' road is used only in dry season. For the remaining part of the year the road is closed because of heavy rainfall. I think the Federal Government should sympathise with that young Province and tar that road for them.

I also want to mention a point which I think worries other Senators too. That is the problem of communications. In the Sardauna Province, Adamawa and part of Gombe, we find it difficult to telephone any other part of Nigeria but it appears to me that other Senators are experiencing the same trouble.



[SENATOR LAMURDE]

I used to think that it was peculiar to my area because it is far from the Federal Capital. We find it difficult to get letters and telegrams or post them. Is it because we are far away? Sometimes we prefer to send letters instead of telegrams. In urgent cases letters even travel faster than telegrams. There is an instance. A telegram was sent to us but that telegram did not reach us before we left. I hope the Federal Government will do something about that.

Another most interesting thing from the Speech of the President is on water resources. We people from the far North welcome it very much, because we are the people who suffer from lack of water, and we shall be very grateful if the Government would do something to that area.

On hospitals, I agree that there is an insufficient number of doctors in this country to cope with our health services. I wonder whether it is the North alone which suffers from lack of doctors. One finds in many hospitals in the North only one doctor on duty throughout the whole time in those hospitals. It must be agreed that one doctor only cannot serve the needs of a hospital. The position must be improved in the whole of the Federation. We all realise that, and it is high time the Government looked into that.

On Education, much has been said and I do not like to repeat all that has been said.

I beg to support.

**Senator H. O. Abaagu :** I thank you very much, Mr President, for asking me to make my contribution to the debate now on the Floor of this House. I want to thank the President of the Republic for the able way he delivered his Speech two days ago.

I want to say something, however, about the President's dress. I think it was last year that the late Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale said he was very much dissatisfied with the President's dress. He said that he wanted something more dignifying than the one he wore then, and we all agreed with him that a more dignifying dress must be found for the President. But the dress in which the President appeared two days ago looked too ordinary for his status, and we never expected to find him wearing such a dress to such a State ceremony. In fact, very many people put up a similar dress, and the President's face was hardly distinguished.

**Senator A. E. Ukattah :** On a point of information, Senator Abaagu is talking of the President's dress, but we should also complain about his own dress.

**Senator Abaagu :** I approve of the Field Marshal's uniform for the President, but I do not like the civilian dress he wore two days ago. The President is the Commander-in-Chief of our Armed Forces, and he holds the highest rank in the organisation. In fact, we have no native uniform for our Army, and I can well remember that the President wore the uniform of the Field Marshal a year ago. I do approve of that uniform more than I approve of the civilian dress he wore two days ago.

Coming to the Speech itself, I was rather disappointed to note that an important event was omitted from that Speech, that is the disturbance in some parts of Northern Nigeria, particularly the Tiv Division. The fact is that the maintenance of law and order in that Division is the responsibility of the Northern Region Government. There was a time when it was necessary to send in the Nigeria Police and the Army to quell the disturbance, and as a result of that about eleven Policemen were killed in action and very many of them were wounded. I think that incident deserves mention in the President's Speech. That is all I want to say about the Tiv Division. I sympathise very much with the bereaved and, at least, there would have been some mention about the activities of the Police and the Army in the Division, or a word in their praise.

The other thing is the unity of the nation. This point was not sufficiently emphasised in the Speech. The paper on which the Speech was printed will be of no use to Nigeria if there is no unity in this country. All the things envisaged in that paper will not materialise if there is no peace and unity in Nigeria. So I think unity comes first. Since the quest or the ambition for power is the cause of disunity or disorder in this country, why do we not evolve another parliamentary system for the country? I am suggesting that we should find out our own system of parliamentary democracy for Nigeria. I am also suggesting that we consent to one-party system of government at all levels, both in the Region and in the Centre. There should be a national government for Nigeria. There should be no question

of any one political party or any one Region thinking of ruling by itself alone. After all, the results of last year's elections and those of last week have indicated that it is almost impossible for any political party, single-handedly, to win a sufficient number of seats and form a Government on its own. After all, our political parties, I beg to say, are on regional basis; they have their foundations in the respective Regions. They draw their own main strength from their respective Regions, and I am sure I will not be expected to offer any apology if I say that the present political parties in Nigeria are tribal organisations.

**Senator Chief Ezeogo Ugwuocha :** On a point of order, the Senator who has been speaking has said that the present political parties in the country are based on tribe. I want to correct that view and I want to say that the N.C.N.C. is a federal party which comprises members from the North, East, West, Mid-West and Lagos.

**The President :** I think the Senator intended to raise a point of information; it is high time he distinguishes a point of information from a point of order.

**Senator Abaagu :** If I should reply to the Senator's remark, I should like to inform him that the N.C.N.C. did not win a single seat in the North during the last Federal Elections and the N.P.C. did not win a single seat in the East. The N.N.D.P. too did not win a single seat either in the North or the East.

**Senator Chief Longe :** I would like to inform my friend that both the N.P.C. and the N.C.N.C. did contest the election both in the North and in the East. If they did not win either in the North or in the East, that is not because they did not contest.

**Senator Abaagu :** My point is on how to curb disturbances in the country. The real cause of all the present troubles in the country is that one of the political parties thinks that if it can win a sufficient number of seats during an election, it may be able to rule the whole country alone. That is why I am saying this and to warn the political parties that it will be practically impossible for any one political party to win a sufficient number of seats so as to be able to rule the

country alone, be it the N.P.C., the N.C.N.C., the N.N.D.P. or any other political party. It is for this reason that I suggest that we should abandon our present political party system and evolve a new way of carrying on Parliamentary Government.

I would go on to suggest that if need be, we may confine the activities of the present political parties in the country to the respective Regions from where they derive their main strength. Thus, the N.P.C. and its allies can remain in the North, the N.C.N.C. and its allies in the East, the N.N.D.P. or any other party in the West, and the A.G. in Lagos. If the activities of these political parties are restricted to these various regions, there will be no question of disorder and there will be no question of disunity in the country, especially at election time.

A Senator made a point yesterday that if the leaders of the various political parties in the country knew that after the election there would be a broadly-based Government, there would have been no need for the political parties to fight as they did during the campaigns for the last elections, and I am inclined to support this view. Therefore, if the political parties are assured that there will always be a National Government in the Centre, there will be no need for them to fight and cause disorder in the country.

The question of States is another matter which causes disunity and trouble in the Federation. Some political parties, for example, the N.P.C., may think that by helping the people of the Old Calabar Province or the C.O.R. people to get their own State, they may win election there and be in power in the East. The N.C.N.C. too may think that by backing the people of the Middle Belt to get their own Region, they will win election there and that will be a step to being in power in the North. This, however, has proved impracticable. With all the support that a political party gave to the people of the Middle Belt, that party could only win four seats during the last Federal elections.

**The President :** Order. May I ask the Senator speaking that he should concentrate on the business before the Senate, and may I warn him that he has nearly exhausted

[THE PRESIDENT]

his time. Bearing in mind the Order of the Day and in view of the statement made by the Leader of the Senate Dr Majekodunmi yesterday, Senators should cut short their speeches so that others may be able to speak.

**Senator Chief Ugwuocha :** On a point of information—

**The President :** Whom are you informing now ?

**Senator Abaagu :** I was speaking on this question of State before I was interrupted. I want to say that it is high time that we forget about this State issue. After all, the ultimate aim of all African States is to have an African Continental Government ; that is, we all want the continent of Africa to be united in future and form one government. If we cherish this idea of having one continental government for the whole of Africa, why then should we begin to divide ourselves ?

A Senator has just said that he does not think that by getting States we divide ourselves, but that we develop more. I am afraid I do not agree to that view. It was only yesterday that a Senator from the Mid-West was lamenting that there was no money in the Mid-West. I feel that if we forget about States and if we are sure that we shall always have a National Government here in the Centre, there will be no need for the political parties to strive to win a sufficient number of seats to enable them to form a Government single-handedly. And this is what I think will bring about the unity of the country.

The other point I want to make is about strikes. Strike actions are doing more harm to the country's economic stability than good and I think that the easiest way out of this situation is to improve trade unionism in the country. Trade unionists should be educated and a sufficient number of them should be brought into the Government. Thus, they will be able in turn to educate their supporters so that there will be less strike actions than we are having at present. We know how much the country lost during the last general strike and such a situation should be avoided as much as possible.

On the present rumpus in the University of Lagos about the appointment of a Vice-Chancellor, I think I should support the opinion which was expressed by a Senator yesterday that this matter should be left to our

leaders to effect a settlement. However, as I had always been saying here before, I feel that the Federal Republic of Nigeria is made up of three principal tribes and a number of other small ones. Thus, if we should be fair enough, there should be no question of giving too much to one tribe while others have not received their fair share.

To come back to the question of the Vice-Chancellor's appointment, I do not think it is correct to say, as some people tend to do, that the former Vice-Chancellor was removed because of tribalism or for political reasons. It was also said that the Provisional Council had failed to give enough reason for the removal of the Vice-Chancellor who had been there. I think that the Provisional Council had, in fact, given a cogent reason why the Vice-Chancellor was removed. The reason was that the appointment was on contract and the contract had expired. Secondly, it was mentioned that another Vice-Chancellor from the same tribe as the Vice-Chancellor who was removed had been heading one of the Government universities and it was not fair to duplicate the appointment of the Vice-Chancellors from that one tribe. I hold no grudge against any of the contestants, but I think that reason is cogent enough. I think that is fair enough.

This man who calls himself "Mickey Mouse" seems to be doing a very good job for the country by exposing those whose tendency is to grow rich overnight. One thing, however, which falls short of expectation is his method of approach and that is what I think is wrong with the whole thing.

If I were "Mickey Mouse" and I see something wrong, I would first of all approach the man with facts and figures, and if I was not satisfied then I would report the man to the Prime Minister. If the Prime Minister failed to take appropriate action, then I would bring it to the attention of the whole country by publishing the whole thing in the papers. I know this is a sort of washing dirty linen in public and it damages the image of our country, but at the same time this very bad practice must be stopped. I congratulate "Mickey Mouse" because he is making himself the custodian of the properties of the country.

**Senator M. G. Ejaife :** I thank the President for giving me an opportunity to make my contributions to this lively debate in connection

with the Speech from the Throne. I think we have received sufficient coverage already and I think I should avoid repetition. But I cannot resist the temptation to say one or two things which I consider vital.

Without following the order of the Speech from the Throne, my points are in relation to foreign aid, siting and improvements of airports, mineral and geological surveys, completion of the oil refinery at Bonny, petroleum refinery, education as a subject, the Morgan Commission and a few other things which I consider omitted from the Speech from the Throne such as sports and games in Nigeria, Inland Waterways and Railway extension to the Mid-West.

In connection with donations from other countries and our role in international affairs, I would like to applaud the stand of Nigeria in observing meticulously the decisions reached at the O.A.U. meetings. I think we should be justly proud that our representatives have tried to conform to the spirit of the Charter of the Organisation of African Unity.

But I think, whereas we accuse Ghana of subversion, there is the tendency, sometimes, to overdo it and I think we have made some statements which are highly provocative. It is my considered opinion that we should go slowly in such matters.

We are enjoying a considerable amount of foreign aid from certain countries and I think Nigeria can be justly applauded for accepting this aid without discrimination as we do not refuse aid, for instance, from the Eastern group of countries in Europe, and we have always made sure that whatever aid we received we received without strings. But I do not think we always do so thoroughly because I think we can improve on that.

Take the case of the Peace Corps Volunteers. I understand that each of these volunteers costs us £3,000. It is true that the services they render are very highly appreciable, but if we are sufficiently persuasive we may be able to persuade the givers of such aids to let us have money because I think the £3,000 which each of the Peace Corps Volunteers costs us can be spent on three Nigerian graduates in schools or in whatever services they are employed.

It is also true that he who pays the piper calls the tune. If the Peace Corps arrangement can be regarded as gift or aid, we would like to

have the money rather than the Peace Corps. Some of them are not always our choice because I think the fields in which we want expatriates nowadays are in technology, science, workshops, woodwork and metal-work and not in arts, philosophy or even economics. So, if we had any choice we would probably be making more use of the aid we receive.

We are also very grateful for the aid we receive from the Ford Foundation and the activities of the United States Agency for International Development and also the Voluntary Services Organisation which are helping us to set up our institutions in this country.

For instance, we have the Aptitude Testing Unit to which the Ford Foundation has contributed several thousands of pounds, and I think we are grateful for that.

Talking about airports. We must congratulate Nigeria for deciding to improve the standard of service in Lagos and Kano airports to make them more and more nearly comparable to other international airports. Most of us have been to other countries and we have seen what their airports look like and we know that we are far behind some of those countries. The decision to expand and improve the facilities of airports must be greatly welcomed.

At the same time, the need to improve other airports must be realised, especially in the regional capitals. Some of the airports are an apology. We can do with improvements at the airports of Benin, Ibadan and Enugu. But perhaps in no other region would an airport be more necessary than in the Mid-Western Region of Nigeria which seems to be in isolation at the moment. There is a little airstrip by courtesy of Aero Contractors, but if we have a little airport there I do not think it will not be appreciated.

Talking about geological surveys, I think this is a field in which we ought to make more efforts. We have been talking about exploiting the land for food and for spreading seeds so as to sufficiently realise how much there is under these minerals. We know that petroleum which is found in Eastern and Mid-Western Regions is already valuable, but the discovery has been through the exploitation exclusively by the expatriates.

I think it is about time we embarked on intensive training of our own sons and daughters in geological survey. More

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scholarships should be awarded to our sons and daughters in petroleum engineering, mineral engineering and in survey of the contents of the soil.

I know that some scholarships have been awarded on these lines, yet more scholarships should be awarded to our sons and daughters with a view to their becoming experts in mineralogy and petroleum engineering.

We are very happy that the oil refinery at Bonny is going into production. It is hoped that in that way we will be able, not only to employ several hundreds of Nigerians, but also to solve the unemployment problem and at the same time train our sons and daughters in technical-know-how. When the time comes we shall be able to produce by-products of petroleum and this means another employment avenue for our people.

There is a talk in the President's Speech about International Tin Agreement which will help to improve our economy. Now, talking about International Tin Agreement reminds me of various other negotiations with other countries. We know of the European Economic Community and European Common Market and of our effort to become an associate member.

I am sure that Dr Pius Okigbo who represents us in conducting these negotiations has been doing his best but we look forward to more fruitful discussions and more successful efforts because no matter how much we sweat or swot in this country in producing cocoa, tin, palm-nut, palm-kernel, shea-butter or hides and skins, we cannot hope to consume all of them. How much we realise from them will depend upon the prices determined in overseas negotiations. More determined effort should be made to get other countries to raise the prices.

I was shocked to read in one of our newspapers that the prices of cocoa were going down. I think that is a very unhappy thing indeed because for many many years in the history of Nigeria, the economy of this country was based on the proceeds from the sale of cocoa.

If such an important commodity should suffer such depreciation in prices, I think that is a calamity on Nigeria. We should conclude good negotiation with a very acute and astute overseas country. The basic prices of this

commodity should not be too low, otherwise many of us will suffer in vain.

There is a talk in the President's Speech about education. I am happy that every Senator here is unanimous as regards the basic importance of education in this country. The fact that our universities are centres of great interest as well as the fact that grammar schools are springing up right and left everywhere underlines the degree to which we appreciate the importance of education.

There is a slight reference to curriculum development and that is very important because traditionally education has been biased in favour of arts, pure science and so on. There is now a growing and very important feeling that education should be more and more diversified so as to make provision for varying aptitudes.

It will enable our people to be technically educated. It is a sad thing that in some trade centres we have not enough teachers to train our boys and girls. A more determined effort should be made to re-orientate our education so as to include things like woodwork, metal-work, engineering, drawing and so on. The fact is that plenty of lip-service is paid towards this end.

Some Senators who are educationists and administrators and others outside have been talking about more and more technical and scientific education. We do not seem to be sufficiently bold enough to launch funds to back this thing. It is not enough merely to advocate the re-orientation, but we should increase the amount of technical education in this country. It is also essential that we should launch funds so as to give bigger grants to voluntary agencies, and set up pilot schools where our people can be technically educated.

Any visitor to other developing countries must be impressed by the emphasis placed on technical education. In the schools which are not specifically technical—comprehensive high schools and even grammar schools—you will see workshops, sections for arts and crafts, sections for woodwork and music and all of them are fully equipped and well staffed with specialists.

When you go to grammar schools which are purely academic, you find emphasis placed also on non-purely academic subjects so that some children in the schools who may not be aiming at entering universities will be able to round up their career with some knowledge of technology.

Those who will be surveyors or engineers in future have sufficient sound foundation.

In this country we are grateful to the Harvard people who have set up a comprehensive high schools in Aiyetoro where they are experimenting with new curricula. At Ibadan we have workshops to which several people from overseas have been invited for discussing ways and means of changing and re-orientating curricula in order to meet changing and modern need.

Also at Ibadan you have the Ohio project where Americans are teaching people ideas about new curricula. In the various institutes of education — Haden College of Education, Institute of Education at Ahmadu Bello University and the Advanced Teacher Training College at Ibadan — experiments as regards new ideas about curricula are afoot. We are grateful that we are now conscious of this new trend in education.

The Morgan Commission has been praised and we look forward to the implementation of its recommendation. We also hope that the lot of the teachers will not be forgotten. Fortunately enough, negotiations are afoot just now to improve the lot of the teachers. I think that the day will dawn when something will be done to make the teachers more content than they are at the moment.

I said earlier on that there were some omissions in the Speech from the Throne. One of them is in connection with the extension of Railway to all parts of the Federation. I am happy that the new extension of the Railway in the North has been opened to the credit of our Ministers in the Government with initiative.

We should remember that what affects one region affects all others; therefore one does not need to be reminded that the strength of a chain is the strength of the weakest link. If we in that part of Nigeria, called the Mid-West, have no link with the Railway, it will be very bad.

We have not smelt any Railway extension in this Region and our children may grow up without seeing a railway track. If we agree that there are mineral resources in this Region, I think it is about time we extend the Railway to the Mid-West. There was no hint at all as to the possibility, whether in the near future or

far future, of bringing the railway into Mid-Western Nigeria.

Speaking on inland waterways, I am reminded not of the Warri extension for which we in the Mid-West are very grateful, but of the very unhappy situation in Sapele ferry service. I am speaking not for the Mid-Westerners alone, but for all Senators, all Nigerians, whether at home or overseas.

If you want to dash off to Benin from Lagos and back, you can do it easily now. But you cannot so readily go to Warri, which is only sixteen miles from Benin for the simple reason that there is the barrier of this deep river called *Eteope*.

It is not its depth that I am talking about, but the fact that one is brought to a stop there as a result of the heavy congestion there. Every Saturday, there is such a bottle-neck that many people are obliged to sleep by the bank of this river.

We cannot be apostles of economic progress if we agree that one half of Mid-Western Nigeria is cut off from the rest of the country, thus stifling that part of our economy

We have two ferries there—one the *M. F. Saloma* which is capable of carrying cars, and the bigger one, the *M. F. Sapele* which is capable of carrying lorries. One of them runs from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and the other one runs from 7 a.m. to about 1 p.m.

There is such a congestion at Sapele that one cannot understand the reason why these ferries are not running all day and all night—a sort of round-the-clock-service.

Owing to this congestion at Sapele, several people have to spend days and nights on end in their long queue of cars and lorries waiting to be carried across. Lorries carrying rubber and cocoa also form a long queue. Sometimes drivers have to make a long road detour through Agbor at considerable cost.

In time, in patience and in money, it is difficult to judge how much is lost owing to the inefficient service of the ferries at Warri. We have tried to suggest that there should be a round-the-clock-service. The ready answer is that there are not sufficient hands because there is no money to pay them. That is false economy.

Finally, I would like us to encourage more sporting activities and games. It is a national

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shame that a country of the size of Nigeria, with 55 million people, cannot make keener mark or keener debut in sports and games. Japan, as we read, spent millions of pounds on a new stadium to accommodate people from all over the world. I know we could do the same thing. I have a lot of things to say, but I will rather end here.

**The Minister of Health and Information** (Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi): I wish to thank the Members of the Senate who have made such very constructive contributions to the debate on this Motion.

The fact that the criticisms of our programmes as outlined in the President's speech, have been so few and far between, is evidence of the fact that you have now, a new Government which is popular with the people and which has received a mandate from the people and knows exactly what their wishes and aspirations are.

The speech itself outlines a very comprehensive programme indeed, because the programme outlined in the President's speech touches every aspect of life in Nigeria, and we are determined to translate this programme into action during this year.

Perhaps one very current feature of the debate, particularly yesterday, was the question of the University of Lagos. I think that it is necessary that I should clarify some of the misconceptions to which expressions have been given by Members of the Senate.

I personally think that those Senators who have made mention of the University of Lagos have done so in good faith because they believe that if this country is to go forward, it must go forward in unity and in peace.

Unfortunately some of the criticisms directed at the Provisional Council of the University of Lagos, I think, has been based on ignorance of the facts surrounding the recent events in that University.

Indeed, a Senator confused the Senate of the University of Lagos with this honourable Senate, the Senate of the Federation, and said in the course of his speech, that the Provisional Council has defied the directives from this honourable House. That remark from the Senator is evidence of how misconception can lead us to wrong conclusion

The characters concerned with the University of Lagos recent crisis, as it has now become, are all very well known to all Senators. We once had the great pleasure of having Professor Eni Njoku as a Member of this Upper House and he is a great scholar by any standard. He is an administrator and a man about whom any of us can be very proud; in fact, I think, any country must be very proud to have Professor Eni Njoku. We think very highly of him. Personally I do. I am sure many of his colleagues and many of us who have ever worked with him and who have met him, also think very highly of him.

Fortunately the same can be said of Professor Biobaku, who is also an eminent scholar of international repute. Indeed, so well is his reputation known abroad that he had been offered an appointment as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Zambia. So I think our problem here in this country is that we are fortunate to have so many very good people.

We never had this type of controversy when we used to go to Britain or America to look for scholars to head our Universities, but now that our boys are coming up, and they have shown their merits, naturally this type of controversy can never be avoided.

But one very important thing which I would like all Senators to bear in mind and which featured prominently in the debates yesterday, was that Professor Eni Njoku was dismissed without just cause. I think we should get the facts correct.

Professor Eni Njoku was appointed for a term of three years and I understand that the term lapses on the 31st of May this year. Professor Njoku is eligible for reappointment and the University Council was acting according to law when they considered the candidates who should come up for appointment.

In any University, any professor could be appointed as the Vice-Chancellor, and anybody from outside could be appointed Vice-Chancellor, though customs vary from university to university. In some universities, the term of appointment is limited to a period of three years. In other universities, it is longer and it is subject to renewal.

In some Universities Vice-Chancellors are appointed for life. Well, we are just new in

these things and so we cannot start appointing Vice-Chancellor for life. After all, the first University we had in this country is the University of Ibadan which was established in 1948 as a college of the University of London, so that it was not a really full fledged University until 1963 when we passed the University of Ibadan Bill in this Parliament.

We are, in fact, still experimenting things and trying to build up our own tradition. So, when the Provisional Council reviewed the appointment of Professor Eni Njoku and decided that since he has had his term of three years, they would like to try somebody else who is equally good, I do not think that action was directed against Professor Njoku as a person because, after all, he is a Professor in the University and still retains his chair as Professor of Botany.

That the Provisional Council wants to try somebody else should not be construed as reflecting adversely on the character or integrity of Professor Njoku. Very much as we would like to see Professor Njoku returned for another term of office to help consolidate the contribution which he has already made at the beginning of the University, the Provisional Council must be given a free hand because that is the practice all over the world, that if a person establishes a seat of learning he does not go back to interfere with the day to day decision of the place.

The Provisional Council should have been given a free hand to carry on the work we entrusted to them. Personally, I do not feel it is a disgrace to Professor Njoku that he was not re-appointed because when he was appointed it was definitely stated that his term of office was for three years.

What I would very much have liked Senators to have deplored is the action of the students because whatever the mistake the Provisional Council might have made, again this is a matter of opinion, the Council was definitely acting in good faith and according to the law—the law establishing the University.

I think, it would be a very bad day indeed in this country when students will begin to dictate to us how to run the Universities. We are financing the Universities and we are providing opportunities for the advancement of the students and the least they can do is to

carry out what they are told to do as good children. The awful demonstration of the students as regards the decision of the Provisional Council is very greatly to be deplored.

As I have already pointed out, when we have so many good people, the tendency is to try and give everybody a chance to shine and that is the compromise on which our whole Federation has been built. When Ministers are appointed, they try to spread the amenities round to all areas and they try to give chance to the people who come from remote areas to be represented on the Ministerial Bench.

When members of corporations are appointed, the same principle applies and in this instance where we have so many really good scholars and it is difficult to decide which one is better than the other; it is only fair that those who are just as good and show equal merit should also be given a chance to display their talents on serving their people. This is one very important point which we should all bear in mind.

Whatever happens, whenever we wish to express opinions on things like this, it is always better to get our facts right for it is definitely not correct to say that the Provisional Council dismissed Professor Njoku. Professor Njoku's term of office is to expire on the 31st of March and he is still to-day the Vice-Chancellor of the Lagos University, and will continue to be so until his term of office expires.

Thank you, Mr President.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved:* That an humble Address be presented to his Excellency, the President, as follows:—

Your Excellency,

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

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1964-65)  
BILL

**Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi:** I wish to seek the consent of the Senate to introduce a message which is given from the Lower



[SENATOR CHIEF MAJEKODUNMI]

House. The Supplementary Appropriation Bill (1964-65) has just been sent to the Senate from the Lower House and it is necessary for this Bill to be passed into law within this financial year in accordance with the Statutory provision.

It is not on our Order Paper for to-day. If it is the wish of the Senate that this Bill be introduced, we shall proceed to take it immediately but if it is not the wish of the Senate, then the Senate will have to adjourn to-day and then take the Bill tomorrow. I am therefore seeking the concurrence of the Senate that we should introduce the Bill now.

**The President :** Senators have heard what the Minister of Health has just said. What he wants is our consent to introduce the Bill. We know what this Bill is all about. It is a money Bill. I think we should allow the Minister to carry out his functions. Do we agree to that ?

**Several Senators :** Yes.

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Internal Affairs** (Alhaji Shehu Shagari) : I have it in command from His Excellency the President to move that a Bill entitled—

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

Although it was not my intention to request Parliament to approve additional provision this year, the additional burden placed on Ministries and departments by increase costs, the recent salaries and wages revision, expansion of services and improvements to our defence and security have necessitated this and the previous Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

I will briefly explain to Senators the major items included in the present Bill of which the supporting Second Supplementary Estimates are now before Senators.

Under Head 21, you are being requested to authorise an additional £8,650 for the State House to meet the increased cost of tours

undertaken by the President and his staff. You are also being asked to appropriate a sum of £300,000 under Head 22—Cabinet Office—as a grant for the current year to the Northern Region Government to assist in improving the running of the Native Administration Police wing of the Northern Police College.

The Police Council, of which all the Regional Premiers are Members, had recommended an annual grant of this amount for a period of five years. An additional £491,000 is required under Head 23—Police—to cover the Police salaries revision which resulted in a relatively greater increase than that granted to Civil Servants previously on similar rates of pay. The average increase granted to Inspectors and below previously earning less than £600 was approximately 20 per cent.

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

So far, I have tried to explain the items under the Recurrent Heads for which you are required to appropriate £942,270 from the Consolidated Revenue Fund. There are, however, items of Capital Expenditure included in the Supplementary Estimates now before you. These are not subject to appropriation, but Parliament is required to approve them by Resolutions which I shall present later.

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

Senators are requested to approve £110,000 under Head 622 to pay an additional call on the Federal Government's shares in the Nigerian

Security Printing and Minting Company. The additional provision required under Head 623 represents a loan to the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria under the United Kingdom Credit Agreement, 1963, for which corresponding revenue has already been reflected under Development Fund receipts.

For the purpose of accounting convenience, Parliament is also required to appropriate £5.1 million for the same purpose under Head 624—Land Transport System—representing a loan to the Nigerian Railway Corporation under the same United Kingdom Credit Agreement.

It will be noted that under Head 637, I am reporting a release of £1 million for the Electoral Commission. This brings the total provision so far authorised for the last Federal Elections to £3.2 million.

I am also requesting an additional provision of £4,000 to the appropriation already made under Head 639 to meet Nigeria's subscription to the capital of the African Development Bank. The total additional provision of £1.3 million under Head 640—Loans-on-lent and External Grants to Regions—is covered by corresponding revenue under Head 614.

This is a non-controversial Bill and I commend it to Senators for approval.

I beg to move.

**Senator Chief Majekodunmi :** I beg to second.

**Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu :** This Bill is not controversial. But may I, with the permission of the President, ask one question—whether we have any of these Bills with us.

**The President :** It has already been distributed to Senators.

**Senator Chief Acholonu :** It may be our own oversight by not knowing that it will come up to-day for deliberation. But at any rate, as I said, it is not one of the controversial Bills. It is a formality Bill. We the old Members know that such kind of Bills come up annually. With a matter like the crisis which took place after the last Federal election in different sections of the country and which caused the first and the second elections, we know that something must be done to cover the expenditure made in both elections as well as other commitments made by the Government. It is not an individual's responsibility

but the responsibility of the Federal Government. Nobody should dip hands in his own pocket to pay for it but the Government.

As I said before, this Bill is not one of the controversial Bills but a formality Bill, and I support it.

**Senator Chief A. O. Fagbenro-Beyioku :** I only want to appeal to Senators to realise that we shall have the opportunity when we shall debate the Budget Speech to speak more elaborately on Appropriation Bills. In view of the certificate of urgency presented by the Minister of Finance, I only want to congratulate him for presenting this second Supplementary Estimate within time. This shows that we are really making progress. I could remember that in previous years it used to come sometimes in the middle of the following year. Then we all felt sore and questioned and criticised it. But for the second supplementary estimate to come within the financial year is something we have to congratulate the Minister of Finance and the Federal Cabinet for.

Under such circumstances, I would only say that we give this Supplementary Bill the go and keep our powders dry for the Budget debate.

**Senator Prince A. Adefarakan :** I rise to support the Second Reading of this Bill.

**Senator Chief A. U. Ekefre :** I congratulate the Minister of Finance for being fast in his work by bringing this Supplementary Bill before this House now. I hope that there should be no waste of time by this House in approving the Bill in order to speed up work for the Ministry of Finance.

There should not be long statements over the Bill. The time is far spent and I beg to support.

**Senator A. E. Ukattah :** Nobody has any intention to delay this Bill, but I wish to make it clear that Senators have all unanimously agreed to handle this Bill now merely for one reason. Since we came here it has not been possible for anyone of us to receive his travelling allowance. If there is anyone who says that we should not pass this Bill, it is not myself.

We are saying yes to this Bill on the understanding that the Leader of the House, and Minister of Health and Information, Senator

[SENATOR UKATTAH]

Chief M. A. Majekodunmi, will take up the matter with the Clerk of the Parliaments to see that we get our travelling allowance before we go to-day.

**Senator Chief J. I. G. Onyia:** The urgency for the approval of this Supplementary Bill is understandable. Senator Ukattah has touched a point which is very pertinent and we know that only five days more remain before the end of this financial year, for which approval is sought from this House for expenditure under the various items enumerated by the Minister of Internal Affairs.

I know that when we were approving the Estimates for 1964-65 at the last Budget Meeting, these circumstances that have cropped up were not foreseen. Nobody knew that there was going to be a strike, and nobody knew that there was going to be a Morgan award and various other items which came up to swell up what we had already passed. Also, nobody foresaw what was going to happen in connection with the General Elections.

Of course, I have my own opinion with regard to this expenditure on the Electoral Commission. In fact, the Electoral Commission, in my view, exhibited gross irresponsibility and lack of tolerance. When a man is given a responsibility, such a man should shoulder the responsibility for the whole country. He must not look left or right when discharging his own function for the good of the nation. He should not look upon the personality of anybody. He should not look upon any party if he is a man standing before God. His own responsibility is for the nation and he should know it.

**The President:** I think you have to be a little more relevant.

**Chief Onyia:** I am dealing with the Electoral Commission. We are passing this Bill for the Electoral Commission.

**A Senator:** On a point of information, I think we shall have enough time to deal with this when the time comes to debate the Budget.

**Senator Chief Onyia:** Alright, let me make it laconic. Let me reserve my comment till the Budget debate. I take this advice. I was making my comment because we are passing

this Bill because of the mistake made by the Electoral Commission.

I beg to support.

**Senator Idrisu, Tafidan Adamawa:** This Bill is non-contentious. But one point I must draw attention to is the way some portion of this money went, particularly during the election trouble.

**The President:** This Bill does not contain electoral items at all.

**Senator Idrisu:** Anyway, I take this as a routine.

I beg to support.

**Alhaji Shehu Shagari:** I would not like us to proceed without answering the allegation made by Senator Chief Onyia concerning the Electoral Commission, because that might give a wrong impression. He accused the Electoral Commission of gross irresponsibility. I think that is a rather serious charge, which should not be left unanswered. If there is any gross irresponsibility due to the election, it was not the Electoral Commission's fault but they have been forced to that situation and the amount of money spent on the elections. Nobody liked it; the Electoral Commission did not like it and the Government too did not like it. They were forced to it.

The whole thing was started right from the census issue, which brought us to the situation in which we were during the election time. We could not prepare the register of electors in time because of the census controversy, as the registration was based upon the census results. Consequently, there was a very short time to prepare the Electoral Register which made the work of the Electoral Commission very difficult. Then there was also the question of delimitation which they could not do without first clearing the question of census. When the election arrangements came, there was also the difficulty of boycott. All these were not the responsibility of the Electoral Commission but the responsibility of politicians. We should not put the whole blame on the Commission and absolve ourselves from a lot of

things which actually were the fault of politicians rather than of the Electoral Commission. I just want to make that clear.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read a Second time.*

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

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.*

### ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn till 28th April, 1965 (THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND INFORMATION).*

#### TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE

**Senator A. E. Ukattah :** We want an assurance from the Leader of the House that we are going to get our travelling allowance before we go back. 28th of April is quite a long

time from now and there is no reason why the Leader of the House should be quiet on this matter. We want a categorical statement from him.

**Senator Chief Majekodunmi :** With regard to the allowance for Senators, I understand from the Clerk that the money has not yet been released from the Ministry of Finance. Unfortunately, we were working till late yesterday. It was not possible for me yesterday to see my hon. Friend, the Minister of Finance. As you know, we started work again at 9 o'clock this morning. Up till now we have not been able to meet, but I hope that we can wind up our business early this morning so that I can see the Minister of Finance before the Treasury closes.

**The President :** I definitely urge that that should be done for Senators.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved :* That this House do now adjourn till 28th April, 1965.

*Adjourned accordingly at half past eleven o'clock.*

SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC  
OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 28th April, 1965

The Senate met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

OATHS

Oath of Allegiance was administered to the following new Members—

Prince A. Lamuye (Minister of Natural Resources and Research)

Mr R. A. Njoku (Minister of Communications)

Alhaji Ibrahim Tako Galadima (Minister of State)

Mr S. Lana (Minister of State)

Mr D. O. Ibekwe (Minister of State)

Chief A. Akerele (Minister of State)

Mr T. O. Oloyede (Minister of State)

Mallam Ibrahim Gusua (Minister of State)

Mr V. L. Lajide (Minister of State)

Onyiba Aja Nwachuku (Minister of State)

Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh (Minister of Finance).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS  
CABINET OFFICE

Niger Delta Special Area

**O.1. Senator Chief J. M. Egbuson** asked the Prime Minister, what development projects have been proposed and undertaken for the Niger Delta special area since 1958; how many have been completed in Eastern and Mid-Western Nigeria, respectively.

**Minister of State** (Senator Chief J. I. G. Onyia): The progress report required by the Senator will be published in the *Hansard* due to its length.

*Following is the progress report—*

It is provided in Section 159 of the Constitution of the Federation that the Niger Delta Development Board shall be responsible for advising the Government of the Federation and the Governments of Eastern Nigeria and Mid-Western Nigeria with respect to the

physical development of the Niger Delta and that in order to discharge that responsibility the Board shall—

(a) cause the Niger Delta to be surveyed in order to ascertain what measures are required to promote its physical development; and

(b) prepare schemes designed to promote the physical development of the Niger Delta, together with estimates of the costs of putting the schemes into effect.

Although the Proclamation specifying the area of operation of the Board was issued on the 26th of August, 1959, it was the Niger Delta Development Board Act, 1961 which defined the establishment and operations of the Board; so that for all practical purposes, the Board's operations did not commence until March 1961. Even then the Board had to depend on the services of highly trained and qualified scientific and technical experts required to conduct the survey of physical resources of the Niger Delta and to prepare the schemes for the physical development of the area. In spite of early and sustained efforts made to recruit them, the Board only succeeded in securing the services of a Soil Scientist in November, 1962, and those of Agricultural, Fisheries Forestry and Civil Engineering Experts between March and June, 1963.

Since the experts arrived in Nigeria they have been actively conducting necessary research and experiments in the various fields of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry and Civil Engineering with a view to obtaining necessary data on which the Board will base its recommendations. The survey of the physical resources of the Delta is now in full swing and when the necessary field work is completed, the Board will draw up schemes for the physical development of the area. In the meantime, the Board has recently recommended to the Governments of Mid-Western Nigeria and Eastern Nigeria the construction of two roads in Western Ijaw, and a bridge across the Orashi River at Mbiama.

Niger Delta Development Board

**O.2. Senator Chief J. M. Egbuson** asked the Prime Minister, how many Ijaws of (Mid-Western and Eastern origin respectively are employed by the Niger Delta Development Board; and how many non-Ijaws are also employed by the Board.

**Senator Chief Onyia :** The Board has a staff strength of 317 at present. Of this number 276 are of the Niger Delta area origin and 41 are not of the area.

In the matter of employment we do not go by tribes.

**The President :** I guess that if the Minister were on the other side of the House, this answer would not be innocuous.

**O.3. Senator Chief J. M. Egbuson** asked the Prime Minister, whether he is aware of the fact that the siting of the Headquarters of the Niger Delta Development Board at Port Harcourt has not made it possible for Ijaws—especially Mid-Western Ijaws to get adequate employment benefits from the Board.

**Senator Chief Onyia :** No, Sir.

#### Accidents on Agege Motor Road

**O.35. Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu** asked the Prime Minister, how many motor accidents occurred from January 1962 to January 1965 between miles 18 and 25 on Agege Motor Road.

**Senator Chief Onyia :** 85, Sir.

#### Road Traffic Laws

**O.53. Senator J. K. Nzerem** asked the Prime Minister, what step the police has taken or intends to take to stop mammy wagons heavily laden with goods like timber or iron rails from carrying passengers.

**Senator Chief Onyia :** None, Sir. Our Road Traffic Laws and Regulations do not prohibit such vehicles from carrying passengers.

**Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku :** Do I then understand the Minister to mean that certain vehicles marked "goods only" which are not licensed to carry passengers, are allowed under our laws to carry passengers? This question is pertinent.

**The President :** But the Minister did not imply that.

**Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku :** Perhaps, the Minister will enlighten the Senate on this.

**Senator Chief Onyia :** I require notice of that question.

#### Owerri Provincial Police Headquarters

**O.54. Senator J. K. Nzerem** asked the Prime Minister, whether he will cause better buildings, commensurate and befitting the status of Owerri, to replace the newly built Provincial Police Headquarters at Owerri, in view of the fact that this division is the largest in Eastern Nigeria.

**Senator Chief Onyia :** No, Sir.

**Senator Nzerem :** Is that all?

#### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

##### Nigeria's Aid to African States

**\*O.4. Senator Albaji Abubakar Garba** asked the Minister of External Affairs, what African States have been offered the services of Nigeria in the fields of Law, Medicine, Hydrology, Establishments and Training and Internal Security.

**Minister of State (Senator D. O. Ibekwe) :** Consistent with its policy of granting aids to foreign and African States only on request, Nigeria has granted technical assistance and training facilities to some sister African States in the following fields :

Three countries in Law ; one country in Medicine ; eleven countries in Establishments and Training ; and two countries in Internal Security.

Particulars of these aids are available in the Ministry of External Affairs and ascertainable on request.

No assistance has so far been given in the field of Hydrology.

**Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku :** Will the Minister consider the advisability of including in his Answer the names of the States? He has only given us the fields of study, but we would like to know which are the recipient countries. Perhaps, that will be embodied in the Answer appearing in the *Hansard*.

**The President :** That was not the question.

**Senator Ibekwe :** This is a new question. The Ministry of External Affairs is open and available to all Senators. It is your Ministry.

#### Assistance to Pilgrims

**O.55. Senator J. K. Nzerem** asked the Minister of External Affairs what financial and

other material assistance he will render to any group of Christians undertaking pilgrimage to holy places in Asia, Europe or elsewhere.

**Senator Ibekwe :** It is not the policy of the Federal Government to give direct financial and material assistance to pilgrims whether christian or moslem. However, the Government is always interested in the welfare of all Nigerian pilgrims abroad who are assisted by our Embassies in Countries where we are represented.

#### Women Diplomats

**O.56. Senator (Mrs) W. A. Esan** asked the Minister of External Affairs, how many Nigerian women are serving in the diplomatic service in foreign countries ; and what position do they hold.

**Mr Ibekwe :** There is no woman yet serving in the Nigerian diplomatic service in any foreign country. The only woman so far appointed into the Nigerian diplomatic service is serving in Lagos.

#### WORKS

##### Oji River-Awgu-Okigwe Road

**O.5. Senator Chief M. B. Chukwubike** asked the Minister of Works, what plans he has to widen the narrow bridges on the Oji River-Awgu-Okigwe Road.

**Minister of State (Senator M. A. O. Olarewaju) :** The narrow bridges will be widened as soon as funds are available.

##### Agege Motor Road

**O.36. Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu** asked the Minister of Works, whether he will consider widening and straightening from mile 18 to mile 25 of the Agege motor road and replacing the narrow bridge at mile 22 with a wider one and so lessen accidents which take place along this road.

**Senator Olarewaju :** It is proposed to reconstruct this road to better standards as soon as funds are available.

##### Otta-Idiroko Road

**O.37. Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu** asked the Minister of Works, what is the estimated cost of the extension of the road from Otta via Awode Ajilete to Dahomey and Ghana ; and when is the project to be completed.

**Senator Olarewaju :** The estimated cost of the reconstruction of this road (Otta-Idiroko) is £1,305,207. The reconstruction will, in all probability, be completed in November this year.

##### Ibadan-Ilesha Federal Trunk Road

**O.42. Senator Chief S. O. Longe** asked the Minister of Works, when he intends to reconstruct the Trunk Road 'A' from Ibadan to Ilesha.

**Senator Olarewaju :** There is no provision for the reconstruction of the Ibadan-Ilesha Federal Trunk road in the current Development Plan. However, normal maintenance work and road rehabilitation will be carried out on this road as soon as funds become available this financial year.

**Senator Chief Longe :** In view of the fact that this road has been giving trouble to passengers for several years, will the Government make an effort to reconstruct it as soon as possible ?

**Senator Olarewaju :** The Government will do this as soon as funds become available.

#### LABOUR

##### Surulere National Sports Stadium

**O.6. Senator Chief M. B. Chukwubike** asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, when the National Sports Stadium at Surulere will be completed.

**Minister of State (Mr S. Lana) :** The construction of a National Stadium at Surulere will commence as soon as funds are available.

##### Protection of Nigeria's Sports Representatives

**O.7. Senator Chief M. B. Chukwubike** asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, whether he will ensure that the interests of members of the national football team who have to leave their employment to play for the country are adequately protected in their various places of employment.

**Mr Lana :** The National Sports Council has ensured that the interests of members of the national football team and other sports, who play for Nigeria, are adequately protected in their various places of employment.

## INDUSTRY

## Nigerian Tourist Association

**O.9. Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba** asked the Minister of Industry, what profit has accrued to the Federal Government from the Nigerian Tourist Association since its formation in December 1962; how was the profit shared between the Federal and Regional Governments; and what organisations are full members of the Association.

**The Minister of Industry** (Chief A. M. A. Akinloye): The Nigerian Tourist Association is not a profit making organisation and no profit is supposed to accrue directly to the Federal or Regional Governments. The Association's work is to promote the tourist industry by attracting more visitors who come from all parts of the world and spend their money in this country. These receipts form part of the country's invisible export earnings which help to reduce our unfavourable trade balance.

The full members of the Association are all the Governments of the Federation except the Government of Mid-Western Nigeria, Messrs Elder Dempster Agencies Ltd., the Nigeria Airways Corporation, the Nigerian Railway Corporation, the Nigeria Hotels Ltd., the Hotel and Catering Association of Nigeria, the Lagos Airport Hotel, Messrs Compass Travel (Nig.) Ltd., and the Federal Taxi Drivers' Union.

## COMMUNICATIONS

## Ekpoma Sub-Post Office

**\*O.32. Senator A. O. Airewele** asked the Minister of Communications, when he will convert Ekpoma sub-post office into a full post office now that the volume of work transacted there is well above that required for the conversion of sub-post offices.

**The Minister of Communications** (Mr R. A. Njoku): Ekpoma Sub-Post Office is already qualified for conversion to a full Post Office. Ekpoma's claim for conversion will be considered along with the claims of other important towns also qualified for conversion, as soon as funds are available under my Ministry's 1962-68 Development Programme.

**Senator A. E. Ukattah**: Are the Ministers aware of the fact that all their Answers are full of 'as soon as possible'?

**The President**: I think they are aware of it.

## Telephone Lines

**O.33. Senator A. O. Airewele** asked the Minister of Communications, if he will make a statement on the fact that telephone lines from Lagos to Benin and other parts of Mid-Western Nigeria are always out of order particularly when Parliament is in session.

**Mr Njoku**: Faults occur on our telephone lines throughout the country from time to time and immediate steps are always taken to clear such faults with minimum delay.

It is to be regretted if such faults occur on telephone lines from Lagos to Benin and other parts of Mid-Western Nigeria, whenever Parliament is in session, but I would like to reassure the Hon. Member that my Ministry is doing everything possible to reduce the number and frequency of such faults which are very often due to bad weather conditions.

## Lagos-Benin Telephone Trunk Lines

**\*O.34. Senator A. O. Airewele** asked the Minister of Communications, if he does not consider three telephone trunk lines from Lagos to Benin as inadequate; and if he will make a statement.

**Mr Njoku**: At present there are 6 telephone trunk lines between Lagos and Benin City, and I am aware that this number is inadequate.

Under our current Telecommunications Development Programme, plans for the improvement of the trunk network in the country have advanced considerably and it is expected that by the end of the current programme there will be 86 trunk lines provided between Lagos and Benin City, exclusive of other 30 alternative routing.

## Telephone Service in Ijebu-Igbo

**\*O.38. Senator T. A. Idowu** asked the Minister of Communications, if he will consider the advisability of introducing a 24-hour telephone service at the Ijebu-Igbo Telephone Exchange.

**Mr Njoku**: My Ministry's policy is to provide 24 hour service when the number of subscribers connected to an exchange reaches 75. At present there are 35 subscribers connected to the Ijebu-Igbo exchange.



[MR NJOKU]

Staff costs at an exchange with continuous service are naturally higher than at an exchange with restricted service, and experience has shown that it is when the number of subscribers reaches 75 that 24-hour service can be provided on an economic basis. However, a twenty-four service is envisaged throughout the Federation at the end of the current Economic Programme.

\*O.39. Senator Mr T. A. Idowu asked the Minister of Communications, why it has been difficult for telephone subscribers in Ijebu-Igbo to speak to station outside Ijebu-Ode since 11th February, 1965; and what immediate plans he has to normalize the situation.

Mr Njoku : The Senator may probably be aware that for the past 18 months, there have been more than 40 cases of telephone wire thefts along the Ibadan-Ijebu-Igbo-Ijebu-Ode road. Consequently, there are now nearly 200 extra joints on the physical line carrying our telephone circuits and this has caused technical difficulties resulting in high transmission loss.

Forestry men have also been felling trees along the road thereby causing considerable damage to the telephone line. The telephone route has had to be diverted.

In order to prevent further wire theft on the road, the route is now being rewired with Copper weld wire and this should be completed within two months. It is hoped that normal service will resume as soon as the wiring is completed.

#### BUSINESS STATEMENT

Minister of State (Senator M. A. O. Olarewaju) : I rise to make the following Business Statement.

As Senators should have seen on the Order Paper, three Bills will be taken to-day : the Customs Tariff Bill, the Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Bill, and the High Court of Lagos (Amendment) Bill.

Tomorrow, Thursday, the 29th of April, Senators will be required to pass a Motion on the Constitution of Northern Nigeria (Amendment) Law, 1965. Notice of the Motion has already been distributed to Senators. May I at this point remind the House that since the Motion relates to an amendment to the Northern Nigeria Constitution, it requires

the support of the votes of two-thirds of the Senate to give the law effect. Senators should therefore kindly make it a point to be present in the House tomorrow.

The following Bills will also be taken tomorrow : University College Hospital (Amendment) Bill, Validation of Marriages (Northern Nigeria) Bill, and the Customs and Excise Management (Amendment) Bill.

On Friday, the 30th of April, the Income Tax (Rents) Bill, Police (Northern Nigeria Application) Bill, and External Loans (Amendment) Bill will be taken.

On Saturday, 1st May, the Senate will consider the Children and Young Persons (Amendment) Bill, the Pool Betting Tax Bill and the Armed Forces (Amendment) Bill.

It is expected that the House of Representatives will pass the Appropriation (1965-66) Bill by Saturday. If they do, the Senate will consider the Bill on Monday, the 3rd of May, and then adjourn *sine die* on that day.

Senator M. B. Chukwubike : It would appear, judging from the Business Statement made by the Minister of State this morning, that the Senate will debate the Budget for only one day.

The President : The Minister of State did not say so.

Senator Chukwubike : The Minister of State said that the Senate would debate the Budget on Monday and rise that very day. That was what he said.

Senator Olarewaju : I do not see anything wrong with what I have said. The Bill deals with money matter and it therefore does not require any long debate.

Senator Chukwubike : What I am saying is that during the Debate on the President's Speech, many Senators had no opportunity to speak. Those Senators will certainly like to speak now on the Budget. I therefore wonder why this Bill should be debated for only one day even though it is a money Bill. It should be realised that this is the only time that Senators have to express their views.

The President : I shall give chance to Senators to express their views on this matter.

**Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu :** In supporting what Senator Chukwubike said, I remember that during the last Meeting, many of us did not speak during the Debate on the Speech of the President, and this will be our only chance to say something of great importance, no matter where we come from.

**Senator Chief R. A. Umoh :** I agree with what the previous speakers have said in regard to the matter of giving us enough time to debate the Budget of the Federal Republic. After all, this is a money matter and money matters are the real things that matter in the Federal Government. We should be given enough time to debate this Bill and fight for our fair share of Government amenities for our different areas. If we are not given a chance to express our views, how would the Government know what is wrong in our different places? It is only the sick man who can say what is wrong with him, otherwise the doctor would not know what to do.

Why should we rush the debate on this Bill by giving only one day to it? I agree with the Senators who have spoken before me that we should be given enough time to speak on this subject.

**The Minister of Finance (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh) :** I do not know whether I could make some suggestions to the Senate. But even before making the suggestions if I might say, Senator Umoh does not look like a sick man at all, otherwise he would have shaven his beard if he were a sick man!

What I really want to say is that if Senators agree, I would be prepared to suggest that we put on the Order Paper for Monday, the 3rd of May, that there would be a night sitting. This would enable Senators to have a chance of speaking. We could say that the Senate would start at 9 a.m. on that day and close at 12 mid-night.

I say this because Tuesday is Private Members' Day. It might therefore mean that we have to wait till Wednesday before we could debate this Bill. If then we can have a night sitting on Monday, it will help everybody.

Again, Senators should please refrain from repeating themselves. If Senators realise that they want to give chance to other Senators to speak, once a point is made they should not

repeat it and thereby waste the time of the Senate. If each Senator wants to spend the whole of the thirty minutes due to him, at the expense of other Senators, then Senators will run into difficulty.

*Several Senators rose.*

**The President :** I am not going to allow this debate to go on indefinitely. I think that we shall leave this matter for the time being, and I shall consider it still open.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### CUSTOMS TARIFF BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**Minister of State (Onyiba Aja Nwachuku) :**  
I beg to move—

That a Bill for an Act to make better provision for the imposition of Customs Duties on goods imported into Nigeria or exported therefrom and for purposes connected therewith, be now read a Second time.

The Customs Tariff Act (No. 60 of 1958) which is the law on our Tariff currently in use contains, in addition to the main provisions, three Schedules. The First Schedule is a list of the various rates of duty payable on goods imported. The Second Schedule shows details of goods which, on importation, are exempt from duty, and the Third Schedule reflects the few items of export which are liable to duty.

These Schedules resulted from the effort, through the years, to marshal a Tariff which served adequately the needs of the past.

A clear indication for quite a long time has been that these Schedules are no longer adequate for the requirements of modern trade and the efficient discharge of the responsibilities laid to our Board of Customs and Excise. Further, the inadequacy of the Schedules has become more glaring since we attained Independence and have had to negotiate direct in international fiscal matters.

Some five years ago, therefore, consultations were held with various international organisations as to the choice of an internationally recognised Tariff structure and, on the advice of experts from the United Nations and the Customs Co-operation Council (of which our country is now a member), it was decided that the Tariff Classification according to the Brussels Nomenclature is the most suitable for our needs.

## [MINISTER OF STATE]

This nomenclature had its beginnings in the old League of Nations and is actively sponsored by the Customs Co-operation Council. It provides a detailed and positive classification of commodities for customs purposes and the classification is also correlated with the most up-to-date statistical classification according to international standards.

With the active support of the Customs Co-operation Council and some help from the United Nations Statistical Office, the Schedules to our current Customs Tariff Act were transposed into the Brussels Nomenclature and the revised Schedules were brought into experimental operation on the 1st of March, 1964. The experiment has proved successful for both the trading public and the officers of Customs and Excise and this Bill seeks to bring the Schedules into legal operation.

In transposing the Schedules to the current Customs Tariff Act into the Schedules on the basis of the Brussels Nomenclature every care has been taken to avoid any illegal change in the duty rates and exemptions as prescribed in our law.

The transposition of the current Tariff Schedules into the Brussels Nomenclature Schedules, as Senators would no doubt have observed is, however, fundamental and it has, therefore, been necessary to revoke the current Customs Tariff Act (No. 60 of 1958) and replace it with the new Customs Tariff Act, but no major changes in the main provisions of the Act have been effected.

Clauses 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 in this Bill are respectively identical with sections 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 14 of the current Customs Tariff Act (No. 60 of 1958). Clauses 1, 3, 6 and 13 are new but harmless provisions which are an essential part of the new Act.

The First Schedule in this Bill is a detailed classification of goods which can be imported into this country with the rates of duty payable. Senators will no doubt observe that the scope of the Schedule is very wide and it caters for further expansion if that becomes necessary. The Schedule also contains clear provisions for goods which are ordinarily admissible without payment of duty.

The Second Schedule is a list of goods which, when imported for special purposes or by particular persons or organisations, are admissible without payment of duty.

The Third Schedule provides for the few items of export which are liable to duty and the Fourth Schedule is a list of exports on which duty is not payable.

I hope I have explained the objects of this Bill sufficiently to Senators and I commend it to the Senate for an easy passage.

I beg to move.

**Minister of State** (Senator M. A. O. Olarewaju): I beg to second.

**Senator J. K. Nzerem**: This Bill is so voluminous that it appears to defy all attempts at serious study. However, one need not go into technicalities of the Schedules. It is a very important Bill because the Federal Government depends mainly on customs duties for the money it requires for the services it is to render to the people. But we cannot kill the goose that lays the golden eggs. If we put customs duties so high on the essential goods that the poorer people particularly the people in the rural areas cannot buy them, it will only mean cutting one's nose to spite one's face.

There are a few of the goods listed in the various Schedules which I think, in all seriousness, we should not charge very heavy duties on. The first one I would like to mention is building materials. We all know that our country is passing through a very important phase in its history. All over the country, including the rural areas, development programmes are going on apace and people are trying to improve their standard of living, and are building better living houses.

To put a very high customs duty on such things like corrugated iron sheets and other roofing materials like asbestos is indeed regrettable, to say the least. Then, we have medical equipment. I am amazed to see that even some medical equipment are being taxed. If people are not healthy they cannot give off their best to the nation.

It may be said that where goods can be produced in Nigeria, there is no need for that class of goods to be imported. I agree completely with that, but where have we any medical equipment being manufactured in Nigeria at present? Our pharmaceutical institutions are very few and far between, and we have no industry for producing medical

equipment, so I insist that medical equipment and medicine of all kinds should be imported into this country free of duty, or with the least duty possible.

Again, we have the question of shoes. As has already been said by a Member in the Lower House, shoes are not necessarily luxuries. We are teaching the people to put on shoes and we are at the same time trying to put taxes on these shoes very high. I know that we have some shoe factories in Nigeria. I have been to the Omimi Shoe Factory at Sapele. It is doing very well indeed. I also know that we have another shoe factory at Owerri. As a matter of fact, the shoes I am wearing now were made at Owerri.

But these are not sufficient. While I agree that some import duty should be charged on shoes manufactured in other countries we should not put up the duty so high that the poorer people will not be able to afford to buy shoes. So, I appeal to the Minister of Finance to reconsider some of these duties with a view to making things easier for the people with low income in this country.

We must protect our local industries, I quite agree, but we must not give our local industries such protection that we will not be able to supplement what they are not able to supply. I am very much surprised at the duty charged on building materials. I expect that Government will not charge any duty on books. I have not quite finished reading the Bill. I have tried my best to read through but, as I said before, it defies all attempt at total reading.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief (Mrs) Wuraola A. Esan :** I think it is high time that the Federal Government should clearly state, for the purpose of import duties, which goods are luxury goods and which are dire necessities in Nigeria because I do not know why goods that are real necessities are so heavily taxed. If one goes to the shopping centres in this country, there are women selling and buying but most of the trade carried on in these shopping centres by these poor women are not profitable.

People now buy less goods because there is not much money in circulation in this country. With customs duty being increased everytime, how do we expect these poor

women to live and most of these women have to help their husbands in training their children. Not long ago, we were told that to protect things made in Nigeria we must be prepared to pay increased duty on imported drinks. It was said also that we should buy *coca-cola* and other drinks brewed in Nigeria. This we have done, but the price of things made in Nigeria instead of going down is going up. Even the price of beer brewed in Nigeria is going up.

The Minister of Finance told us in this House that they want to protect local industries and that is why they are increasing the duty on imported goods. The cement that we are now producing in this country costs more than what we used to pay when all the cement we use in this country was being imported. I cannot see the protection but the Government keeps on telling us that they are protecting local industries.

The traders display their wares only to be covered with dust at the end of the day because very few people come to buy. Although the Government says the price of beer is being increased so that people can drink less, but if one goes to any party or any celebration the story is still the same. Beer and stout bottles can be seen all over the place and this is how we waste money.

I think the Government should let us know what are luxury goods so that anybody who has no money will not go and buy them. The country is getting fed up with increases in customs duty every time and these Bills are always brought to us in a hurry. Even if we who are laical cannot read these Bills thoroughly, we should be given time so that we can give them to intelligentsias who can study them very well. It is only when we arrive that we find these bills in our pigeon holes. How are we going to study them within the short time at our disposal?

What I am stressing is that if we are going to help Nigeria, it is not by raising customs duty on imported goods everytime under the guise of protecting local industries. I am in support of our protecting our local industries but the goods produced by these local industries should be of the same quality as the imported goods and they should cost less than imported goods

We must live and let other people live too, our women petty traders cannot make two

[SENATOR CHIEF (MRS) ESAN]

ends meet now. I do not see how we can convince them that Nigeria is progressing economically if they are losing in their trade. I do not think that we should belabour this point. As Senator Nzerem said, our Minister of Finance should please make sure that the import duties on books, clothes, cement, aluminium and other building materials are not increased. We need better houses and we must appear decently dressed in the streets. We do not want to go about in rags just because we want more money through our customs duties.

I beg to support.

**Senator M. B. Chukwubike :** This Bill is straight-forward and very important but the first Senator who spoke on the Bill made a very good point that touched my mind when I first read this Bill.

I do not want to repeat what Senator Nzerem said, but I would like to emphasise and appeal to Senators to view this point very seriously and appeal to our Government to declare drugs and medical equipment duty free. This is very important. We all know that the fees charged in our hospitals are very high and if drugs are imported duty free, our hospital fees will be less and, many people will be able to take advantage of our medical facilities.

It is the duty we place on drugs that make our people to import dangerous drugs and we know that many lives are lost by the unavoidable use of these drugs. I would appeal to the Government to bear in mind that a great number of our people are still very poor and because our hospital fees are high, they prefer to buy their medicines from the open markets and from quack doctors. If drugs are duty free, hospital charges will be less and many people will desert the quack doctors.

I also agree with Senator Nzerem that building materials produced in this country cost more. If we want our people to build good houses they must be able to get cheap building materials or else they will continue to build with mud and thatched roof. If building materials are fairly cheap our people will be able to build good houses in the villages.

May I also mention that the high duty we charge on imported goods is also driving back foreign investors. For example, empty bottles

are now very expensive. Beer now costs 3s-6d per bottle instead of 3s, and the customer has to deposit 6d for the beer bottle. This is very inconvenient. I hope that the Government will consider the points we have raised.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief J. O. Ngiangia :** The raising of tariff is a very important matter, and we should examine it properly. We raise tariff firstly in order to get money, but the tariff increases should not be too high. While we raise tariff to get money, there is also the disadvantage that we might suffer as a result of it. Probably, when we raise tariff to get money, the money itself may not come in because the increase in tariff will limit the purchasing power of the people.

The lower the tariff, the lower the cost of things and the more goods are bought. The second point is that sometimes we raise tariff in order to limit the quantity of certain goods coming into the country. But I am wondering whether the goods on which we have increased tariffs are meant to be limited in quantity, because the people of this country are still patronising such goods.

The third point I would like to make is that we raise tariffs with a view to encouraging local industries, so that the young local industries will grow. But as long as the local industries are not there, and as long as the people are still wanting to use some of these goods on which we are raising tariffs, I think that we are making the consumers to suffer in that they will not buy as much as they wish to buy.

I would like us to remember that whenever we raise tariffs we encourage smuggling. One thing we have to fight against, first and foremost, is the avenues of smuggled goods. As long as the smugglers are very active, whenever we raise tariffs, we are punishing only the honest people who do not smuggle. We are punishing honest people in two ways—when the tariff is low, they are the people who will pay the increased tariff and consume the goods, and when the Tariff is high, the smugglers gain more by it whilst the honest man who buys his goods from a legitimate market pays more for it.

In this way the honest man is being made to pay twice. On the one hand, he helps the smugglers to carry on their illegitimate trade whilst on the other, he carries the burden imposed on the goods by increased tariffs. If we want to increase our revenue, we should launch a frontal attack on smugglers. For instance, in a place like Port Harcourt, if one goes to Doci Island, one will find many ships lying down there because there is no harbour there. As a result, smugglers go there to collect goods, since these ships cannot find their way to Port Harcourt in time. By the time these ships get to Port Harcourt, the goods they are carrying will be considerably reduced.

In my opinion, if we want to raise tariffs, we should do so on goods that are luxuries and not on goods that are a necessity to the common man in the street. If we raised tariffs on necessary goods, it would make the smugglers to work harder in order to get these goods from sources well known to them, so that honest people will continue to buy from them probably at a lower cost than it would have cost them in the shops.

I am, therefore appealing to the Minister of Finance to think of all the points we have raised before allowing this Bill to become Law. However, I am sure that this Bill will be passed on the Floor of this House.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu :** I rise to support the various Senators who have spoken before me on this Customs Tariff Bill. I would like to put forward three important things to be considered in the life of a human being forward for my fellow Senators to consider. The first one is life itself, the second is living and the third is illness.

I would like to start from the third, illness. It is definite that anybody who is not well cannot carry on his or her duties. Therefore duties should not be imposed on hospital equipments and drugs. The imposition of heavy duties on hospital equipments and drugs can only retard our standard of living, and this will reflect adversely on our health too. In fact no nation will benefit from duties on hospital drugs.

Early in 1930 whilst I was working with the West African Drugs Company in Ghana, duties were not imposed on medicine with the

result that the price of patent medicine was very low. So that if an M.B. tablet cost one shilling in Nigeria, it would cost two pence in Ghana. The price of drugs was fifty *per cent* lower in Ghana than it was in Nigeria. That is still the practice in Ghana. But Nigeria is a very big place and our population is growing by leaps and bounds. As a result we have not got sufficient doctors to go round and our pharmacists are few too.

If the tariff on hospital equipments and drugs is increased as it is advocated by this Bill, then our lives will be in danger. It will make our hospitals to be short of certain equipments and drugs too. So that if one goes to the hospital to ask for a certain drug or tablet, it is not uncommon that one will be told that the drug or tablet is not available. Hospital equipments and drugs, as it were, are necessary ingredients that need not be taxed by way of increased tariff.

For instance, if the President were sick of headache right now, he would be very uneasy until he has been cured. Even if the hospitals can afford to pay the duties, the charges that would be demanded from patients with *e.g.* a view to recovering the duties paid by the hospitals will be very exorbitant and our people cannot afford such charges.

On the other hand the companies importing these equipments and drugs may decide not to import them again and there would be no place to get the drugs should a doctor recommend them. But where they decided to import them, these companies would like to charge a price of about thirty three and a half per cent on a drug, and our people cannot afford it.

I would appeal to the Minister of Finance to look into the points raised by us with regard to the imposition of duties on hospital equipments and drugs.

There are two types of goods—necessaries and luxuries. Duties should be imposed on luxuries. Duties should be imposed on strong drinks like whisky, gin *et cetera*. After all, we are now distilling our own whisky and gin. We should stop importing whisky and gin from either Holland or Scotland. I remember that I said on the Floor of this House four years ago that the time had come when we should stop importing strong drinks and thanks to God we are on the way to that.

[SENATOR CHIEF HUNPONU-WUSU]

I am now saying that all imported luxuries should be highly taxed. A duty of about two hundred per cent should be levied on luxury goods. When we do that, our local industries will be encouraged to produce more products of their own.

But why should the cement that is being produced in this country cost more than the one imported from either London or Holland? We all need more houses. We need school buildings, universities and different types of houses, but how are we going to get these houses when duties have been imposed on building materials? If the duty is high, people will run away from building houses, but if the duty is low, many people will want to build houses.

However, we should all try to patronise our home industries. We have got so many textile industries. Let us encourage them, by not importing clothes again from overseas. Let us increase the duties on textiles to about two hundred *per cent* so that we can scare off those importing them. We should stop importing second-hand clothes, rather let us buy the clothes that are manufactured in the Eastern, Western, Mid-Western and Northern Regions.

Let us buy and use whatever our textile industries can produce. After all our white shirting is equally good compared to those imported. Let us behave like the English people. They patronise their own locally manufactured goods. They do not import from Germany or Holland what they can make at home.

I am happy that Senator Nzerem is patronising our locally manufactured products. The shoes put on by the Senator are manufactured at Owerri. We should buy our locally manufactured shoes, no matter where they are made, whether at Kaduna, Onitsha *et cetera*. We should patronise and encourage our home industries.

**The President** : I think that is the essence of this Bill.

**Senator Chief Hunponu-Wusu** : But it is making it more difficult for the locally produced goods. We should look into that very carefully. I am saying that there should be free duty on medical equipments. Our hospitals are not well equipped. The same thing goes for our

maternity homes. So, I am appealing to the Government to look into these things for us.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu** : I rise to support what other Senators have said on this Bill. Since the independence of this country, if you ask the local people questions as to whether or not they like the present system of things in Nigeria, they will say no. It is true because they do not know that while we are ruling ourselves we must make some provisions to protect our Government. But while doing so, I think we must always look back.

If we go out on the road or in the market, we will see people living under miserable conditions. There are people in a place like Lagos who have no shelter. Those who have shelter and those who have none are almost equal in number. Yet, these people also want to live.

If we look at this question of duty on certain articles, we will see that the duty on drugs is like that on second-hand clothing. When we say that we should not wear second-hand clothes from other countries, our people say no because without it they cannot live. It is the same thing with what we usually call dangerous drugs. Because our hospitals cannot meet the demand of our people, they go to buy these drugs from local doctors. They meet these quack doctors who can give them cheap treatment because people generally prefer cheap articles to dear ones, especially those people who cannot afford the dear ones.

I support the idea of free duty on medicine and medical equipments, building materials and materials used for our own local manufactures. When local manufacturers buy these raw materials at high prices, the price of their products will be very high too.

For instance, cement which is made here in Nigeria is higher in price than those imported. The same thing goes for beer and other articles made in Nigeria. The ordinary people of Nigeria do not know the difference between these things. They do not know whether a thing is produced in Nigeria or overseas, and if you tell them that a certain article is made in Nigeria, they will ask to know why the price is so high.

We do not know the reason for the high cost of these local products. It may be that it is due to the high rate of duty paid on the

imported raw materials from overseas. Conditions in this country should be made suitable for our people to enjoy life because without life there can be no enjoyment. If high duty is put on things like motor cars, silk, velvetine and other costly goods, nobody will quarrel because people who have the money will buy them. But there should be no duty on things like A.P.C., Codeine, Aspirin and many other small things like that which people require in their daily life.

The Government should take note that while they are increasing duties and other things on certain commodities, this increase should not be extended to building materials, especially at this stage when we are trying to build homes for the people of this country. If zinc, iron, nails, cement and other things are costly, the local people will not be able to build their own houses which can give them good shelter from rain. If the materials are too dear, these people will be forced to remain in their thatched houses which are now out of date.

Another point which I would like to make is this. Why is it that things made in Nigeria are very dear? This is a question no one has been able to answer yet. The Federal Government should tell us whether it is because of the high rate of duty imposed on imported raw materials or whether it is due to the avarice of our own people. Unless this point is made quite clear to the House, it will always crop up.

With these remarks, I support what the other speakers have said on this Bill because we know that it must be passed.

**Senator Chief E. U. Uti** : I rise to associate myself with the Senators who have spoken. There is an important issue which we must understand and about which we shall advise the Government to inform us in time, so that we can study things of this nature. We come here on behalf of our people and it is our duty to serve them properly. The Government should not just bring Bills here and tell us to pass them without going into them. That will mean that we are not doing our duty to this great nation.

Furthermore, the question of duty is always being considered—

**The President** : Am I to understand that Senators did not get this Bill in time? Please explain the point to me.

**Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku** : On a point of order, I do not think it will be fair on the part of Senators to say that this Bill is sprung on the Senate. We all received copies of this Bill before the vacation.

**The President** : Thank you. I want to warn this House that sometimes we do not always do our duty. When we get these Bills we do not take them home; we leave them here and go home and we come back to blame the Government. It is high time Senators did their duty. When Bills are put in their pigeon holes or sent to their homes, let them sit down and study them.

**Senator Chief Uti** : Now that the Bill has been brought to us, I would appeal to the hon. Minister of Finance to consider all what Senators are saying about drugs and building materials. These two important issues are very essential to the lives of the citizens of this great land of ours.

Also, we must realise that we have not developed. We cannot be thinking of Lagos alone: we have got to think of the person in Warri village who would like a better living and who would like to live in a house which is decent for himself and his children. How can we get money to buy all these things? We come here to say that tariff is being raised every day. The people are not paid. Most of them are not workers. They are suffering. Some of them are fishermen and some are poor farmers. They must enjoy a good standard of living. Therefore, I am appealing to our Government always to consider these facts and factors before Bills are introduced.

The next point is the question of drugs. If we are not living in accordance with what Senators have said, we cannot come here. How can we get a fisherman who cannot produce two shillings and must naturally be sick and must need drugs, to buy a drug at £2. 10s, when he cannot afford to produce two shillings? I am appealing to the Minister of Finance to consider these things each time Customs duty is to be increased.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief S. A. Lateju** : I would like to associate myself with those who have spoken on this Bill. But there is one thing which I would like to point out. We are talking about the increase in tariff and have



[SENATOR CHIEF LATEJU]

left out one important part of that Bill. We have to talk about decreasing the prices of our own locally made things.

I remember the time the Japanese brought their goods to us here. One mosquito net cost about one shilling and six pence or two shillings. Even the poor people could get a mosquito net at that time. They brought goods to us and we bought them cheaply.

I remember sometime ago—almost about three months ago—the engine in a cement factory broke down. Prices went up from fifteen shillings to almost one pound two shillings. That continued for almost a month or two and we could not get imported cement from other firms. So, how can we just control that? Are we not just helping to tax some people for the purpose of profiteering?

Then, again, we come to the locally manufactured medicine. If one goes to the market, one will find people who cannot discern a bad medicine from a good one and they buy A.P.C. made of chalk. They think that it is good A.P.C. being sold cheaply. So, the poor people who cannot read or write and who cannot say this is good or bad, rush to buy them. How can we control that?

Then, again, we come to another thing which happened recently. Suddenly it was announced that the price of beer had been increased. We were made to pay for the carton and the bottles. How can we not just try to make bottles in our own country sufficient to go round? If one happens to entertain people with some bottles of beer and they happen to go away with the bottles, one loses both ways. This is what is going on. How can we control that? That is an important question which I would like Senators to pay attention to.

This increase in the prices of cement makes people to stop building houses. When I was building a shed, I had to buy cement at a high price because the cost of cement had gone up. So, when we are talking about the increase in Tariff, I think we have also to think about the decrease in our own locally made things so that poor people can buy them.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku :** I think, on the whole, what we have before us is a welcome Bill. We all appreciate that it may not be one hundred *per cent* acceptable.

I have on my note the question of certain medical preparations. As we all understand, there is another portion of the Bill where certain essential medical equipments and medical preparations are exempted from duty. We cannot just pick a particular one and emphasise on it and ignore the majority of others which have been exempted from duty.

Talking about building materials, my own honest opinion about this is that it is good to say that building materials are exempted from duty. But will that make the landlords to cease to be what they are? Landlords, who want all the money from the tenants? Rather, we have given them more opportunities to take more from the tenants.

Coming to the question of locally produced cement, it is my own opinion that the prices paid for it are still exorbitant. It may be the labour condition or the cost of materials that is responsible for this. People prefer the imported cement to the locally made one because the locally made cement is more expensive than the imported one. That is the point. Even, with the Customs Tariff standing as it is now, we will still charge more for everything that we produce locally ourselves. The tariff we have now is meant to carry us through our economic programme, and after the period of our economic programme. I am sure that we shall come to look into these things with a view to making necessary amendments.

We may have to appeal to the hon. Minister of Finance to give real consideration to such things as children's food—milk, for example, and whatever food may be used for feeding our children. I have my views about the adults. I am talking about the children's food. There are certain types of milk which are exempted from duty. I know that. But we must think about exempting from duty the specific types of milk which are used for the feeding of children.

Another thing which I am appealing to the Minister of Finance to consider is the high duty on things like toys. The percentage of duty on toys is too high. We must have to train our children somehow. The import duty

on toys ranges from 20 to 40 per cent. In my opinion, it is too high. After all, a child uses a toy for about two or three months and it is damaged, and you have to provide him with another. The toys are meant for the development of the manhood in children, and I would like such things to be considered for either exemption from duty or, at most, five per cent duty could be charged.

Other things like fountain-pen and some writing papers should not be dutied. I do not see why we must have to charge duty on them. They all are articles of common necessity.

The next important point which I would like to touch upon, which Senators do frown at but would hesitate to mention, is this question of the rising cost of cars and spare parts. Many Members who returned to Parliament, as well as many businessmen, do complain about the very high cost of cars now, and it has resulted in one taking on a car one does not like, since the brand one would have preferred costs very highly.

Though a car is graded as a luxury, I feel, since we are progressing in this country, that car is ceasing to be a luxurious article in certain quarters. Even to put a Volkswagen car on the road runs into a thousand pounds.

I would appeal to the Minister of Finance to allow certain considerations for things like motor-cars—well, I hear the Minister of State in the Cabinet Office (*Senator Chief Onyia*) asking what things I would consider as luxuries. May I say that in life even the very air we breathe is said to be a luxury, but it is a necessity. When a man builds a house and it is well ventilated, he is said to be living in a luxurious house. But the mere act that he has installed an air-conditioning plant in his house is only to enable him live longer; it is not a luxury.

In the past, we had been tempted by the Europeans to believe that certain goods are luxurious. Most of our native institutions are built up from imported materials and we cannot say they are luxuries. I do admit that we must have to find money to meet our Six-Year Development Plan, but there are certain aspects of imported goods which we must consider for exemption from duty.

I am hundred per cent in support of the Bill.

**Senator M. G. Ejaife** : I see in this Bill a two-fold purpose—firstly, to bring more money into the coffers of the Government, and, I think, secondly, to limit the importation of certain articles into this country, thereby encouraging our infant industries.

I think these objectives are commendable. For many years we have been trying to cry out our heads that we have not been given sufficient measures whereby imported goods are discarded in favour of those manufactured locally.

This Bill, voluminous as it is, is a piece of good service to the nation at long last. I notice certain articles which have been deliberately left free of duty. Again, I think that is very commendable; it is a sign that Government is cognizant of the necessity of these things in the development of the country. They are very many, and punctuate many a page in the column.

I specifically remember noting down such things as bulbs, rhizomes, corms, and tubers, which are of biological importance. Other things that we may want for developing the foliage, biology and botany of this country are things like music, printed or in manuscript, paper or paperboard, electrolytic paper, maps and hydrographic and similar charts of all kinds. Reference is also made to plans and drawings, other printed matter, including printed pictures and photographs, which are to be exempt from duty. These are items which will help education in this country.

The Government has to be congratulated for this foresight and co-operation in the task of nation-building through education. Whatever faults we may find in this Bill, we can forgive the Government because of the foresight it has shown in bringing this Bill, and in other respects.

I do not propose an amendment whatsoever, but I would like the Minister to explain one or two points which I have to mention. I refer for instance, to projectors. Projectors are means of educating people in this country nowadays; they are used in the classrooms in making the lessons more vivid than they would be otherwise, but they seem not to be exempt from duty. Perhaps, the Minister would explain this to us—why projectors should also be taxed.

[SENATOR EJAIFE]

There is also reference to exercise books which, I think, ought to be lumped together with the others exempt from duty, but rather twenty-five *per cent* duty is to be charged. Perhaps, also, the Minister would explain this to us.

With these two provisos, I would say that the Bill is welcome, and I beg to support.

**Minister of State** (Onyiba Aja Nwachuku) : If I have to do a recapitulation of what Senators have said here this morning, it will amount to the epistle of the synoptic writers. All of them are saying the same thing, and I think it might not be very necessary for me to say one by one what each Senator has said.

The point made by Senator J. K. Nzerem was supported by Senator Chief (Mrs) Esan, Senator Chukwubike, Senator Chief Ngiangia, and Senator Chief Hunponu-Wusu. It was also supported by Senator Chief Acholonu, Senator Chief Uti, Senator Chief Lateju as well as Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku who really have answered some of the points raised, and Senator Ejaife.

Senators have mentioned the question of duties on such items as building materials, medical equipment, empty bottles, and children's food. I have to say this about medical equipment and drugs. Certain drugs are free of duty, but not patent medicines. Specialised hospital and surgical equipments are free of duty. I wish to say that items of medical equipment, which are duty free, are the ones which are really costly.

A point has been made here that if drugs were duty-free, then the quacks would have no chance to sell to people in the rural areas what we call dangerous drugs. Dangerous drugs and the quacks may be likened to a habit which, when formed, can hardly be broken. It might not be possible, despite the relentless fight that the Government has put forward, to stamp out the sale and administration of dangerous drugs in the country by reducing duties on medical equipments or on drugs.

I think that if the duties are reduced it might mean burning one's candle on both ends because the quacks, who have succeeded in duping people, will continue in their dupe and the Government, thereby, will be losing revenue without achieving the very objective for which these duties are reduced.

What will help a great deal to stop quacks will be that Senators and all people of goodwill should go and spread the gospel that dangerous drugs are not really cheap because they take more lives than the ones we think are costly. It would not benefit anybody, in any way, if he goes to buy dangerous drugs because they are cheap, thereby risking his life. It would be better for one to buy the one supposed to be costly and have one's life preserved.

On children's food, I can say that milk or cream, whether fresh, concentrated or preserved in any way, is free of duty, and milk is the chief food for babies. I suppose this condition satisfies Senators who are advocating that babies' food should be free of duty. I think milk is one of those things necessary for the growth of children.

I now go to the matter of building materials, which was mentioned by some Senators. Such materials as cement, asbestors, metal roofing materials were mentioned but some of these things are produced locally and must be protected, otherwise, our infant industries will not be able to compete with overseas producers.

Senators have also said that the locally produced materials are not patronised. I think if the members of the Nigerian public develop the sense of patronising locally produced materials, the prices of these materials will go down when they receive 100 *per cent* patronage. But as long as some people still have what one might call a dislike for something made locally, or attribute that the quality of locally produced materials is low and for that reason they will not buy locally made ones, I might say that those people are having what we call "colonial mentality".

Most of our locally produced materials are by far more superior to the ones we import, and I think it is high time we started patronising our locally produced goods. On the whole, however, the duty on building materials is not high except where such materials are protected. For example, we talk of cement and say that the cost of cement in Nigeria is high. I personally think that we have not been able to produce as much cement as the country needs, but in order to protect the cement factories already established, it is only wise and proper that we impose duty on cement so that the price should not be discouragingly low.

Some Senators also spoke on shoes. There are many shoe factories in this country. I do not agree with the Senator who said that shoes produced here are not in sufficient number for the population. Wherever one goes in this country, one finds displayed, locally produced shoes, which are of very high quality. At present, one of the shoe factories in Kano is closing down because of the competition from foreign producers, and if we do not place high duties on such imported materials like shoes, it means that other shoe factories, about 19 or 20 of them, will go the same way that the shoe factory in Kano is about going.

Then there is the question of empty bottles. The aim of levying duty on empty bottles is to protect our glass factories one of which is situated at Port-Harcourt, and others that may soon be established. The question of protecting our infant industries is very important to the economy of this country. All of us are agreed that if these infant establishments should continue to survive they should be protected.

Some Senators also mentioned that duties should not be imposed on such goods as cars. It is now very difficult to differentiate between luxuries and what we call basic needs of life. If cars are no luxuries, and it is only something like whisky, soda, brandy and ginger that Senators think are luxuries, then this much I can say that what is spent in buying a car might lead one through his life for all the drinks one might take unless one is a drinks addict.

If cars are no luxuries, as Senators are now trying to say, then I can say that whisky, soda, brandy and ginger are no luxuries because they cost far cheaper than cars. Some Senators even went further on this question of drinks by saying that unless some of the drinks are duty free, we might be encouraging smugglers.

Smugglers are terrible type of people and no matter what we do, they will continue to smuggle. We have been doing all we can to stop them from smuggling but it is becoming increasingly impossible. Smugglers risk their lives and their limbs to smuggle these goods into the country knowing the very high profit they make out of this detestable venture. Many of the smugglers, no matter how the Government reduces duties on drinks, will continue to smuggle goods, particularly drinks, into the country.

I would therefore ask Senators to help to combat this evil by refusing to buy such smuggled drinks which are brought into this country from Fernando Po. If a trader buys these smuggled drinks and they are not sold, he is not going to buy them again. But if the Government reduces duties on drinks and people go surreptitiously to these smugglers to buy from them what they have brought home, then they are being encouraged.

If a bottle of brandy costs about 55s and a bottle of Spanish brandy—which of course when smuggled into Nigeria is adulterated by the smugglers by mixing it with what is called "Sapele water" or "*push me I push you*", thereby making out about four bottles of brandy from the original one bottle—costs about 15s, in the final analysis the few bottles of Spanish brandy which have been smuggled cost more than the imported one on which Senators are now saying that duties are heavily imposed. If one bottle of pure Spanish brandy could make four bottles of adulterated brandy, and if each of the four bottles costs about 15s then the one bottle of Spanish brandy has been sold for about £3 while the imported one, which is quite safe and unadulterated, costs about 55s. It follows therefore that if one drinks the imported unadulterated brandy, one saves five shillings on every bottle and one is sure of one's life.

I will now go over to the question of circulating Bills. I have to mention this because my friend Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku has already taken the wind out of me.

This Bill, though voluminous, had been distributed to Senators before the vacation. It is so voluminous, that one can hardly read and digest it, I agree, but there is one assurance I would like to give Senators. That assurance is that Government has taken all necessary measures to ensure that there is nothing nocuous in this Bill, and, that the other points raised by Senators which are not already in the Bill will be given very serious consideration.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

CUSTOMS TARIFF BILL :  
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

*Parts I and II—Clauses 1-15—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Part III—Clauses 1-2—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*First Schedule—(IMPORT DUTIES)*

**Senator Chief A. O. Fagbenro-Beyioku :** I would like to ask the hon. Minister to please help me to clarify some doubts I have here : at page C 18, we have "Tariff No. 04.02—milk and cream, preserved, concentrated or sweetened. A Sweetened." The rate of duty is 40 per cent. Then, there is the following description—"Dried in solid form such as blocks or powder, liquid or semi-solid." In addition to this, there is also the following—"B Other, rate of duty—free ; Dried in solid form such as blocks or powder ; liquid or semi-solid."

This is where I have my little confusion about the food for children. One is quoted as free and the other as dutiable at the rate of 40 per cent.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku :** The explanation to this is that if it is sweetened it carries duty, and if it is not, then it is free. Liquid or semi-solid is free and fermented milk is also free.

**The President :** Is Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku satisfied with this explanation ?

**Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku :** I would not like to belabour this point. So I will take it up with the Ministry later.

*First Schedule agreed to.*

*Second, Third and Fourth Schedules agreed to.*

*Bill reported, without Amendment ; read the Third time and passed.*

DAUGHTEROUS DRUGS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1965  
*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Dr T. O. Elias) :** I rise to move that the Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Bill 1965 be read a Second time.

Having discussed, as an incidental issue the question of traffic in drugs on the earlier Bill, I think there is very little that I can add to the need to control the illicit traffic in drugs that is going on now throughout the Federation.

The purpose of the Bill is to make it possible for magistrate courts all over the Federation to have summary jurisdiction in dealing with offences against the Dangerous Drugs Act.

In some Regions, the magistrate's jurisdiction already covers most of the offences and particularly the penalties imposed. But in some others this is not so.

For instance in Northern Nigeria, the power which the federal legislature so far has given to the Region on the subject is that all such cases must be tried in the High Court of that Region.

It is therefore considered desirable that magistrate courts should be able to impose heavy penalties in a summary way and that this will make for the expeditious stamping out of the illicit traffic in drugs going on at the present time.

The power has been confined to magistrates of all grades. It has not been extended to any category of Customary or Native Courts.

I beg to move.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku :** I beg to second.

**Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba :** Nigeria is a young developing country. The new Colleges and Universities already opened are not enough to cope with the increasing needs of our students who are thirsty for knowledge. The doctors and nurses are not also enough to cope with the needs of our growing population and our hospitals and dispensaries are not well-equipped with drugs. Most of our people are still illiterates and are ready to believe in whatever is offered to them as medicine. So, quack doctors are out to make the most of this situation to acquire wealth.

The Government should be congratulated for introducing this Bill. I will go further to suggest that the power of summary jurisdiction should be conferred not only on Magistrates in the Regions but also on Alkalis in Northern Region in dealing with offences involving dangerous drugs. Anybody found guilty of trafficking in dangerous drugs should be severely dealt with or, may I say, should be punished with life imprisonment.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief P. C. Ndu :** This Bill is welcomed and it is non-contentious. If one gets to the average market in Nigeria, one will see syringes being sold and injection being freely given. There is one point which many

people do not know in this country and it is that there are some people who prefer to go to quack doctors than to go to qualified doctors not necessarily because the qualified doctors charge more, but because they do not want to come to the hospital and wait unnecessarily queuing up. Some people prefer to go to the markets and ask to be given injections in the arm or in their buttocks.

It is unbelievable that about five per cent of the deaths in Nigeria is due to dangerous drugs. Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba suggested that anybody found guilty of trafficking in dangerous drugs should be given life jail. I feel people may not know the offence committed by the accused if he is only given life jail. The quack doctors should be hanged in open markets with the syringe they use tied round their necks. The people who traffick in dangerous drugs commit the worst form of murders in this country.

I beg to support.

**Senator Alhaji Abdul Salami Yusifu :** This Bill is welcomed and there are many things which are connected with these quack doctors. This is not only practised outside, it is practised even in the hospitals.

May I say that in some of the hospitals in this country, the nurses are not efficient and they do not look after their instruments. In most cases, they give their patients more diseases than the ones they have brought to the hospital. For instance, I have been to the hospital with my family on several occasions and instead of receiving the standard dose prescribed by the doctor we were given less. This happened because the instruments were not sterilised. The same syringe that was used for a man suffering from syphilis was, without being boiled or washed, used for a man suffering from malaria. I think this is very serious and it should be looked into.

I have also seen the quack doctors washing used penicillin bottles and filling them with carbolic. This powder is mixed with water and poured into empty penicillin bottles and it is given out as penicillin injections to their clients. I think that the best way to control this trafficking in dangerous drugs is, as a Senator mentioned a few minutes ago during the Second Reading of the Customs Tariff Bill, that drugs should be imported duty-free so that medical treatment can be given free in our hospitals.

If this is done, the quack doctors will have nothing to do because this is what they leave on. If no money is charged in our hospitals, no patient will be prepared to go to somebody who will charge him money for treatment. As we drive away the quack doctors from our streets, we should also see that our hospitals are being run satisfactorily. Some nurses do not give patients the full dose recommended by doctors because they want to go and use the rest for their friends or customers.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu :** The Bill is very good and timely. The Bill that has been brought before us this morning has been existing for the past thirty years in Nigeria. When I say thirty years, I do so with all the emphasis at my command, in that the importation of dangerous drugs into Nigeria is being done by people who are not qualified to do it. I am happy that by this time yesterday, the Minister of Health passed on to the Pharmaceutical Society the power to take over the control of these dangerous drugs. I remember, when I was the Secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society, about twenty-five years ago, I fought very hard to get the Government do what they have done now. I told the Government to appoint qualified Chemists who know much about dangerous drugs to take care of them. By then anybody who had money could import dangerous drugs into Nigeria without anybody checking him and since there were no qualified chemists at the Customs to check the drugs, and these dangerous drugs were brought into the country for use.

In the Eastern Region in those days *sobita* and N.A.B. were being freely administered in the market places by untrained nurses and doctors without the supervision of qualified people. We chemists prepare these drugs, not doctors, and I want Senators to know this from to-day. It is the Chemists that prepare these poisonous drugs and introduce them to the doctors and tell them the diseases they can cure.

**Mr President :** I am sure this is a good thing for the Senator.

**Senator Chief Hunponu-Wusu :** Yes, and I am very happy that this Bill has come into existence to-day. I will appeal to the Federal Government that they should try to appoint qualified Chemists to look into these things.

[SENATOR CHIEF HUNPONU-WUSU]

For instance, some people have said here that chalk is being used to make M. & B. tablets. If a qualified Pharmacist is appointed to check these things at the Customs, probably the inflow of dangerous drugs through private sources might stop. Qualified Chemists should be posted to the Regions to undertake a check all over the place. These drugs must be sent to the Government analyst to examine. When this is done, then the question of security, the question of safety and of quality will be determined by them. We shall then know that we are passing these things through the hands of qualified people and we shall have no fear in taking them. We should not leave it to Mr John, because he has the money, to import his own from Italy, and for Miss Mary to import her own from Germany, because she has the money.

If a case of this nature goes to the Magistrate, I wonder how the Magistrate would prove that it is a dangerous drug. It must be sent to the analyst who would examine it. A man who is not qualified in law cannot be a judge. It is one thing to make a law and say that the offender would go to prison for one hundred years or pay a fine of one thousand pounds, and it is another thing to implement it.

On my way to Ibadan a few months ago, I got to a market place where so many people were gathered. Out of curiosity I stopped my car and went to see what was happening. But to my greatest surprise, I saw a youngman advertising and selling one type of medicine he called 'Awogba' and said that it could cure thousands of diseases and people were rushing to buy it. Senators would be surprised to know that this medicine was nothing but crystal menthol which they put into penicillin bottles. Knowing this I got hold of this youngman and told him that he had contravened the law. Then he began to beg. On these bottles one cannot find the name of the producer.

Therefore this Bill is very good indeed. I am appealing to the Government to appoint qualified Pharmacists to check all those manufacturing and selling drugs under false pretences.

Yesterday at a cocktail party, a Pharmacist who is now a Minister of State told me that there was no more trade in the Eastern Region because poisonous drugs and quacks were

monopolising the trade everywhere. These drugs were also sold in the markets without control. I am, therefore, appealing to the Minister of Health to implement this Bill properly. It is one thing to pass a law and it is another thing to preserve and make it work. What is going on in the Eastern Region is as well going on in the Western, Mid-Western and Northern Regions.

So, I am supporting it wholeheartedly.

**Senator Chief E. I. Onewokae:** The President has at least recognised me. I am very happy about it.

This Bill is a non-controversial Bill, any way. I have to congratulate both the Regional and Federal Governments for their timely measure in taking this step to track down the people who traffic on dangerous drugs.

I have got to associate myself with the views expressed by Senators who spoke before me, especially those who said that this power should be extended to the Alkali Courts. I would also want this power to be extended to our Grades A and B customary courts where the offenders could equally be tried and punished.

Looking into this Bill, I feel that there are some other reasons why the importation and sale of dangerous drugs are still being encouraged. If you go to the hospitals, you will see that most of the medicines prescribed by the doctors for outpatients are not available in the hospitals and the layman who does not know what is called a dangerous drug would go out of the hospital to look for where to buy that medicine prescribed by the doctor. Eventually he finds where to buy it and buys it cheaply. On the other hand again, one goes to the hospital and the doctor prescribes a drug for him, but dispenser in charge says that there is no medicine and refers the patient to a nearby chemist where the medicine would be bought, probably at a very exorbitant price. As a result of this, people tend to go somewhere else to get the medicine cheaper.

Our hospitals should be provided with medicine adequately sufficient for the outpatients.

Again, when we talk of dangerous drugs, people in Lagos and in some other places can understand what we mean by dangerous drugs. But my parents who are in the rural areas do not know what are called dangerous drugs.

I think that since both the Regional and Federal Governments are in agreement to bring up this Bill, they should do all they can to get the mobile film unit of the Ministry of Information to tour the villages and educate the people against the purchase of these dangerous drugs. Our school children should be told the danger that would result from the purchase of these dangerous drugs. Some of our school children are in the habit of buying sleeping pills—especially those who want to study. They often go to those quacks who sell these dangerous drugs and buy them. This is why so many of our people suffer from mental sickness.

I beg to support.

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Dr T. O. Elias):** Mr President, I have listened to the various suggestions made by Senators but the majority of them do not really come within the province of this Bill.

I do not propose really to take up your time, but I would like to mention that the point made by Senator Chief Hunponu-Wusu is interesting, although it has already been taken care of under the Pharmacy Act 1964 which prescribes all the conditions to which he has referred, and the Government is following up on what has already been provided by that Act.

The only other point to which I think I should reply briefly is the reference to Customary Courts. Again, we feel that the determination of what is dangerous and what is not among the various drugs now in circulation will be of such a specialised nature as to warrant its being dealt with in Magistrates' Courts with all the arrangements for producing evidence, getting expert opinion, and so on, that are of such peculiarity to Magistrates' and High Courts in the country. This is no reflection on Customary Courts.

Quite apart from the irrelevant circumstance that once you allow Customary Courts of the various types to get into this business of exercising jurisdiction you will have all sorts of accusations of political oppression, the Government wants to keep the business of ensuring the safety and life of the populace away from political accusations of any kind. This is why the Bill has been left in the charge of Magistrates' Courts so far.

It may be that in the light of experience at some future date it will be necessary, perhaps, to look into the question of whether or not it is wise to extend it beyond the Magistrates' Courts.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read a Second time; immediately considered in Committee; reported, without Amendment; read the Third time and passed.*

HIGH COURT OF LAGOS (AMENDMENT) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**Dr Elias:** I rise to move—

That a Bill for an Act to regulate the exercise by the High Court of Lagos of its Admiralty Jurisdiction be read a second time.

Last year we passed a Bill in the Senate entitled "Admiralty Jurisdiction Act, 1964" under which the jurisdiction up to that date exercised only by the Supreme Court was transferred to the High Courts of Lagos and of all the Regions.

The Chief Justices of the High Courts have come together and demanded that we should make provision for them in regard to the law and practice to be followed by the various High Courts in exercising their admiralty jurisdiction. It has been found that the old law and procedure used by the Supreme Court is not altogether adequate, and that it will be necessary for them to make specific provision for the law and procedure to be followed in admiralty cases.

This is the object of this Bill. I beg to move.

**Minister of State (Senator M. A. O. Olarewaju):** I beg to second.

**Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu:** Mr President, when any Amendment comes before this Senate concerning the Judiciary, anything at all pertaining to the Courts must come in. Last time, there was an incident of somebody who tried to stone the Prime Minister's car. We heard that the case was tried and the man was sentenced to twelve month's imprisonment.

It is very ridiculous that somebody who attempted to stone the Prime Minister's car—

**Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku:** On a point of order, the matter Senator Chief Acholonu is raising is not relevant to the Bill before us.



**The President :** Will Senator Chief Acholonu please be relevant.

**Senator Chief Acholonu :** Well, Mr President, I beg to support.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read a Second time; immediately considered in Committee; reported, without Amendment; read the Third Time and passed.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn—*(MINISTER OF STATE MR M. A. O. OLAREWAJU)

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved:* That this House do now adjourn.

*Adjourned accordingly at half past twelve o'clock.*

SENATE OF THE FEDERAL  
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 29th April, 1965  
The Senate met at 10 a.m.

## PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

## OATHS

Oath of Allegiance was administered to the following new Members—

Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima (Minister of Transport.)

Dr Jaja A. Wachuku (Minister of Aviation)

Alhaji Hashimu Adaji (Minister of State)

Alhaji Muhammadu Gauyama (Minister of State)

Alhaji Usman Maitambari (Minister of State)

Alhaji Abdul Rasq (Minister of State)

Mr M. U. Ekpo (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Communications)

Mr J. A. Jamabo (Minister of State)

Mr Mbazulike Amechi (Minister of State)

Mr Dominic M. Mapeo (Minister of State)

Dr K. O. Mbadiwe (Minister of Trade)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS  
CABINET OFFICE

## Statistics of Arrests

O.10. Senator Chief J. M. Egbuson asked the Prime Minister, if he would state the number of arrests so far made in the North, East, West and Mid-West since the introduction of Police road blocks and the search for dangerous weapons; and if he would also state the results of the prosecutions which followed these arrests.

Minister of State (Senator Chief J. I. G. Onyia): The information sought by the Senator is not readily available as the Police do not keep separate statistics of arrests, prosecutions and convictions arising from searches for dangerous weapons.

Women Membership of Corporation  
Boards

O.59. Senator Mrs W. A. Esan asked the Prime Minister, how many women are members of boards of statutory corporations in the Federation.

Senator Chief Onyia : Six.

## HEALTH

## Indian Hemp

O.11. Senator Chief J. M. Egbuson asked the Minister of Health, what steps are being taken to wipe out the illegal cultivation and smoking of Indian Hemp in Nigeria apart from the accidental detections and prosecutions by the Police.

Minister of State (Senator M. A. O. Olarewaju): My Ministry has been doing all that lies in its power to enlighten the public in the fight against Indian Hemp. Talks have been undertaken by the Specialist (Psychiatrist) on the Radio and on television and lectures have been delivered to groups of Social Workers, probation Officers, Medical Students and others.

In the new Comprehensive Health Education Programme launched by the Public Health Department publicity against the smoking of Indian Hemp includes handbills, posters, slides, film strips, cinema films and other media designed to drive home to the members of the public the evil consequences of the smoking of Indian Hemp.

In the final analysis the education of the public is the surest way of combating this evil and this can only be achieved by co-operation of all Members of the House.

Senator Chief J. M. Egbuson : May I know what steps the Police are taking to prevent the cultivation of Indian Hemp?

The Minister of Health (Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi): The prevention of the cultivation of Indian Hemp is the responsibility of every well-meaning citizen of this country. The Police are doing their best to detect the Indian Hemp, and if members of the public who are alive to their responsibilities would give information to the Police, I think we should be able to stamp it out.

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## Economic and Cultural Co-operation

**O.12. Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba** asked the Minister of External Affairs, what steps he is taking to achieve economic and cultural co-operation among African States.

**Minister of State** (Senator D. O. Ibekwe) : Several Specialised Commissions of the Organisation of African Unity like the Economic and Social Commission, the Scientific, Technical and Research Commission, the Telecommunications and Transport Commission as well as the African Development Bank have been established and have formulated plans and programmes for speedy co-ordination and harmonization of economic and cultural activities among member-States.

Outside the frame-work of the Organisation, regional economic and cultural agreements have been concluded between Nigeria and several African States, giving priority to realistic schemes. These include co-operation with states bordering on the Chad Basin and the

*Following is the answer—*

**Names of all Nigerian Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Charge d'Affaires Stationed Abroad**

Mission	Accredited Representative	Designation
1. Embassy of Nigeria, Abidjan .. ..	Mr P. L. Udoh .. ..	Charge d'Affaires
2. Nigeria High Commission, Accra .. ..	Alhaji Isa Wali .. ..	High Commissioner
3. Embassy of Nigeria, Addis Ababa .. ..	Mr D. C. Igwe .. ..	Ambassador
4. Embassy of Nigeria, Bamako .. ..	Mr R. C. Uwechue .. ..	Charge d'Affaires
5. Embassy of Nigeria, Bonn .. ..	Chief E. Ejimofor .. ..	Ambassador
6. Embassy of Nigeria, Brussels .. ..	Alhaji Abdul Maliki .. ..	Ambassador
Nigerian Delegation to the E.E.C. Brussels	Dr P. N. C. Okigbo .. ..	Ambassador
7. Nigerian Consulate, Buea .. ..	Mr S. J. King .. ..	Consul
8. Embassy of Nigeria, Cairo .. ..	Alhaji M. Ngileruma .. ..	Ambassador
9. Embassy of Nigeria, Conakry .. ..	Alhaji M. K. Bayero .. ..	Ambassador
10. Embassy of Nigeria, Cotonou .. ..	Mr C. C. Uchuno .. ..	Charge d'Affaires
11. Embassy of Nigeria, Dakar .. ..	Mallam S. Kontagora .. ..	Ambassador
12. Nigerian High Commission, Dar-es-Salaam	Mr N. A. Martins .. ..	High Commissioner
13. Embassy of Nigeria, Dublin .. ..	Alhaji Abdul Maliki .. ..	Ambassador
14. Embassy of Nigeria, Fort Lamy .. ..	Mallam A. Y. Bida .. ..	Charge d'Affaires
15. Nigeria High Commission, Freetown .. ..	B. C. I. Obanye .. ..	High Commissioner
16. Nigerian Consulate, Hamburg .. ..	F. O. Odumosu .. ..	Consul
17. Embassy of Nigeria, Jeddah .. ..	Alhaji A. Waziri .. ..	Ambassador
18. Nigeria High Commission, Kampala .. ..	N. A. Martins .. ..	High Commissioner
19. Nigeria High Commission, Karachi .. ..	Alhaji A. Koguna .. ..	High Commissioner
20. Embassy of Nigeria, Khartoum .. ..	Alhaji A. Waziri .. ..	Ambassador

River Niger for the exploitation of their resources.

Telecommunication links are being expanded, and we are in consultation with our neighbours on projects for the development and co-ordination of our transport systems. Visa abolition agreements have also been concluded with several African states—all these make for freer contact and movement of goods and persons among our peoples.

## Foreign Service Statistics

**O.45. Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu** asked the Minister of External Affairs, if he would state the names of all Nigerian Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Charge d'Affaires stationed abroad.

**Senator D. O. Ibekwe** : As the answer to the question is rather long, it will, with the permission of the President, be printed in the *Hansard*. The Senator may please refer to the Official Report for the answer.

21. Embassy of Nigeria, Leopoldville .. ..	A. I. Osakwe ..	Ambassador
22. Embassy of Nigeria, Lome .. ..	E. G. D. Nwogu ..	Charge d'Affaires
23. Nigeria High Commission, London .. ..	Alhaji Abdul Maliki	High Commissioner
24. Embassy of Nigeria, Monrovia .. ..	S. Williams ..	Ambassador
25. Embassy of Nigeria, Moscow .. ..	Dr C. O. Ifeagwu ..	Ambassador
26. Nigeria High Commission, Nairobi .. ..	N. A. Martins ..	High Commissioner
27. Nigeria High Commission, New Delhi .. ..	A. Haastrup ..	High Commissioner
28. Consulate-General of Nigeria, New York	L. S. M. Osobase ..	Consul
29. Nigerian Permanent Mission to the United Nations Organisation, New York	Chief S. O. Adebo	Permanent Representative
30. Embassy of Nigeria, Niamey .. ..	Mallam Isa Modibbo	Charge d'Affaires
31. Nigerian Consulate, Port Sudan .. ..	Mallam S. Aliyu ..	Consul
32. Embassy of Nigeria, Rome .. ..	L. O. V. Anionwu	Ambassador
33. Nigerian Consulate, Santa Isabel .. ..	O. U. Ikpa ..	Consul
34. Embassy of Nigeria, Tokyo .. ..	Mallam S. U. Yolah	Charge d'Affaires
35. Embassy of Nigeria, Washington, D.C. .. ..	G. A. Onyegbula ..	Charge d'Affaires
36. Embassy of Nigeria, Yaounde .. ..	Alhaji Bello Malabu	Ambassador

## Summary :—

No. of Ambassadors .. ..	12
No. of High Commissioners .. ..	6
No. of Charge d'Affaires .. ..	8
No. of Consuls .. ..	5

**DEFENCE****Nigerian Navy**

**O.13. Senator Chief J. M. Egbuson** asked the Minister of Defence, if he would assure the House that every possible move is being made to provide the Nigerian Navy with enough ships for the effective defence of our territorial waters and ports.

**Minister of State** (Alhaji Ibrahim Tako Galadima): The size of our Naval fleet at any time is determined by many factors, such as the country's needs and financial resources, commitment, availability of trained manpower, *et cetera*. But the Senator can rest assured that my Ministry will continue to provide not only ships, but also all the other necessary things for effective defence of our territorial waters and ports.

**LABOUR****Sports in Nigeria**

**O.14. Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba** asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, what steps are being taken by the

Federal Government in consultation with the Regional Governments to overcome our short comings in sports.

**Minister of State** (Mr S. Lana): The National Sports Council, in association with the Regional Sports Councils, have embark on a programme which is aimed at improving the standard of sports at all levels in the country. Specialist coaches have been appointed for almost all major sports and training is given priority by all sporting clubs. With the existing training scheme and facilities provided, the standard of performance will continue to improve.

**Women Membership of the Sports Council**

**O.60. Senator W. (Mrs) A. Esan** asked the Minister of Labour, how many women are there on the Board of the Sports Council.

**Mr Lana**: There are two women members, Mrs Yetunde Makanju and Miss Tonja Ahabue, on the Board of the National Sports Council and one woman member, Mrs O Fagbemi, on that of the Lagos Sports Council,

## AVIATION

## Nigeria Airways Statistics

**O.15. Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba** asked the Minister of Aviation, what was the profit realised last year by the Nigeria Airways; and what was the average passenger and freight traffic month by month for the same period.

**The Minister of Aviation** (Dr Jaja Wachuku): Nigeria Airways did not realise any profit in the year 1963-64. The number of passengers and the amount of freight carried by the company during 1963-64 were as follows:—

Month	Passengers No.	Freight Kgs.
April .. ..	6,371.8	57,878
May .. ..	6,622.4	75,502
June .. ..	6,631.7	67,652
July .. ..	8,061.4	65,575
August .. ..	8,393.9	79,651
September .. ..	10,684.5	100,533
October .. ..	7,779.7	82,057
November .. ..	8,181.5	90,788
December .. ..	7,845.7	89,639
January .. ..	8,105.6	79,885
February .. ..	7,440.7	72,953
March .. ..	8,634.8	76,917
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>94,753.7</b>	<b>939,030</b>
<b>Monthly Average .. ..</b>	<b>7,896.1</b>	<b>78,253</b>

**Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba**: Is the Nigeria Airways a non-profitable state-owned company?

**Dr Wachuku**: The Nigeria Airways is a commercial concern, a business undertaking and not a charitable institution.

**Senator Chief J. K. Nzerem**: Can the Minister give us any idea of the amount of profit made by the "Operation Fantastic"?

**Dr Wachuku**: I can tell you straightaway that "Operation Fantastic" made no profit.

**Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku**: Can the Minister tell us what was the loss sustained by the Nigeria Airways during that period, if there was no profit?

**Dr Wachuku**: The Accounts for 1963 have not been audited yet, but I am informed that the Company expected to realise a net loss of £50,000.

**Senator Chief E. U. Uti**: May I know what was the cause of such a large sum of money as a loss?

**Dr Wachuku**: Relative to other airlines, I think the loss sustained was not really great.

## Aircrafts

**O.16. Senator Chief M. B. Chukwubike** asked the Minister of Aviation, if he will state how many aircrafts are owned by the Nigeria Airways; and the cost of each.

**Dr Wachuku**: Nigeria Airways owns 5 Fokker Friendship aircraft, 6 DC.3 aircraft and 2 Aztec aircraft.

The Friendship aircraft each cost £307,618, the Aztec, £18,663 each while the six DC.3s cost respectively £31,016, £31,100, £30,695, £27,380, £32,082 and £24,276.

**Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku**: Are the two VC. 10 aircrafts the exclusive property of the Nigeria Airways?

**Dr Wachuku**: No, Sir.

## Nigerian Pilots

**O.17. Senator Chief M. B. Chukwubike** asked the Ministry of Aviation, how many Nigerians are qualified as pilots; and how many are still in training.

**Dr Wachuku**: There are thirteen qualified Nigerian professional pilots and two qualified private pilots. Four Nigerians are training as professional pilots. (*Applause.*)

## TRADE

## Foreign Firms

**\*O.18. Chief M. B. Chukwubike**: asked the Minister of Trade if he will state how many foreign firms have wound up their business in Nigeria since the achievement of Independence: and how many new ones have been established.

**The Minister of Trade** (Dr K. O. Mba-diwe): Since the achievement of Independence 131 foreign firms have been established in Nigeria and two such firms wound up.

**WORKS****Bridge Construction**

**O.43. Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu** asked the Minister of Works if he will consider the necessity of constructing a bridge to connect Maroko with Victoria Island, and Maroko with Ikoyi; and if he will make a statement.

**Minister of State (Alhaji Hashimu Adaji):** No Federal trunk road for which my Ministry is responsible extends to Maroko village. The construction of the bridges suggested by the Senator is not therefore my responsibility.

**Lagos-Ibadan Road**

**O.62. Senator Mrs W. A. Esan** asked the Minister of works how soon the repair work on the Lagos-Ibadan Road will be completed.

**Alhaji Hashimu Adaji:** I presume the lady Senator has in mind the embankment work being done at mile 16½ on the Lagos-Ikorodu section of the Federal trunk road between Lagos and Ibadan. This will be completed at the end of May this year. But the reconstruction of the bridge also at mile 16½ will be completed in March 1966.

**Aba-Owerri Road**

**O.63. Senator J. K. Nzerem** asked the Minister of Works when he will complete the widening of the Aba-Owerri Road between mile 3 and mile 18.

**Alhaji Hashimu Adaji:** The widening of some sections between miles 3 and 18 on the Aba-Owerri Federal trunk road has recently been completed. More sections of this road will be widened as funds become available.

**O.64. Senator J. K. Nzerem** asked the Minister of Works, whether the reconstruction of the three narrow and dangerous bridges between mile 22 and mile 24 on the Owerri-Aba Road will be undertaken during the present financial year.

**Alhaji Hashimu Adaji:** There are only two narrow bridges between miles 22 and 24 on the Owerri-Aba Federal trunk road. The reconstruction of these bridges this financial year will depend on the availability of funds

**TRANSPORT****Ports Authority Training School**

**O.44. Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu** asked the Minister of Transport, how many students were admitted into Ports Authority's Training School at Apapa for the years 1962-63 and 1963-64; how were they selected; and if he will state their regions of origin.

**Minister of State (Alhaji Usuman Maitambari):** The figures of students admitted into the Nigerian Ports Authority's Training School in Apapa for the three years in question are as follows:—

1962-63 ..	110
1963-64 ..	nil

The method of selection was by interview. Of the 110 students admitted in the year 1962-63 3 were non-Nigerians; 12 were from Northern Nigeria; 13 from Mid-Western Nigeria; 36 from Eastern Nigeria and 46 from Western Nigeria and the Federal Territory of Lagos.

**COMMUNICATIONS****Benin Telephone Exchange**

**\*O.47. Senator A. O. Airewele** asked the Minister of Communications, when he will replace the switchboard at Benin post office as the present one is completely worn out.

**Minister of State (Mr Mbazulike Amechi):** The existing telephone Exchange in Benin-City is in good order and will still be serviceable by 1967. There is, however, a proposal to replace it with an Automatic Telephone Exchange under Phase 3 of our telecommunications Development Programme starting in October this year.

**Automatic Telephone Exchange for the Mid-West**

**\*O.48. Senator A. O. Airewele** asked the Minister of Communications, why there are no automatic exchanges in Benin-City and in other major towns in Mid-Western Nigeria.

**Mr Amechi:** Delay in the provision of automatic telephone exchanges in Benin-City and other major towns in Mid-Western

[MR AMECHI]

Nigeria has been due to lack of funds. However, under our current Telecommunication Development Programme, it is proposed to provide automatic telephone exchanges in, Benin-City, Sapele, Warri, Agbor, Asaba Auchi, Isseleuku and Ogwashiuku.

#### Savings Bank Facilities

\*O.61 Senator J. K. Nzerem asked the Minister of Communications, if he will consider introducing savings bank facilities at the postal agencies in Emekuku, Naze, Agbala, Obube and Obibi in Owerri Division.

Mr Amechi : Ngwoma Obube Postal Agency has had Savings Bank facilities since 11th October, 1960. No applications have been received for the introduction of Savings Bank facilities at Emekuku, Umuakali, Naze, Abala and Obibi Postal Agencies. Consideration will be given when such applications are received.

### NOTICE OF MOTION AND ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### CONSTITUTION OF NORTHERN NIGERIA (AMENDMENT) LAW, 1965

**The Minister of Health** (Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi) : I rise to move the Motion standing in my name on the Order Paper—

That, in accordance with the provision of Section 5 (4) of the Constitution of the Federation, this House signifies its consent to the Constitution of Northern Nigeria (Amendment) Law, 1965, having effect.

The Amendment Law to which this Motion refers is in the Supplement to this Order Paper. It is a straightforward law. It seeks to increase the number of representatives in the House of Chiefs from 95 to 110 and in the House of Assembly from 177 to 230. This has been brought about by the need to have increased representation to the people in Northern Nigeria as a result of the increase seen in the recent census.

This is an exercise which the Regional Governments will be passing to this House from time to time because as the need arises the Constitution of the country and of the Regions will have to be changed to fall in line with the facts of life.

It is a non-controversial Motion and it has already been passed, unanimously, by the Lower House. I do not by that imply that the Senate should rubber-stamp it, but I have no doubt whatsoever that Senators will see the necessity for endorsing the move of the Northern Regional Legislature to amend their Constitution to suit the circumstances created by the recent census.

I beg to move.

**Minister of State** (Senator M. A. O. Olarewaju) : I beg to second.

**Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku** : As the Minister of Health has said, the Motion does not call for any controversy. All I wish to say in this particular case is, in the first instance, to associate myself with the Motion but at the same time to draw the attention of the Government, once again, to matters connected with elections in this country.

Now, the number of Members in the Northern House will be increased. The recent census calls for that and we cannot run away from it ; it must be increased and I am quite sure that at some other stages we may have to give equal assent to amending the Constitution of the Eastern, Western and, maybe, that of the Mid-Western Houses, if they choose. But what I want to say is that this question of elections to our Houses of Parliament and Regional Legislatures is giving the country much more anxiety than is necessary.

For us to continue to think that things must remain as they are is just as if we ourselves are rooting out the very foundation of parliamentary democracy. I would therefore appeal to the Government that before any other election takes place, in whatever form, either in the East, West, Mid-West, North or in the Federal Territory, something should be done to ensure that we conduct our elections in an atmosphere of calm.

**Senator E. A. Lamai** : On a point of order, Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku is speaking outside the terms of the Motion before the Senate. The Motion before the Senate is for altering the Constitution of Northern Nigeria and not about Federal elections. He is therefore not relevant to the point.

**The President** : Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku should please be relevant.

**Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku :** Even though the point I am making might be considered irrelevant, I think as far as we are discussing increasing the membership of the Legislature of Northern Nigeria—and how do we do this other than by passing this law and thereby enabling the Northern Region to elect more legislators into the Northern House—the point should be considered relevant.

It is part of our responsibility as matured statesmen, to point out these irregularities in our elections, whether such irregularities occur in the East, West, North, Mid-West or in the Federal Territory. We are agreed to enlarging the membership of the Legislature, but there is something which is worrying our minds—this problem of our elections—and let the Government take care of this thing, the way by which people are put into the Houses. This is part of what we are now discussing. All the same, Mr President, I bow to your ruling.

There is not much I have got to say on this Motion other than that we should all agree to the Motion because it is a thing which is going to affect all the Regions as a result of the recent census.

**Senator Chief J. O. Ngiangia :** We all agree that this Motion is not controversial. Nevertheless, I wish to make a few remarks which are friendly and on which I would not like to be misunderstood.

When any institution, be it a government, a corporation, or any other institution, seeks for anything in Parliament, opportunity is given to Members of Parliament to make some remarks on such an institution. I am therefore going to register my dislike for the use of the word “native” in the Northern Region, in connection with institutions such as courts, councils or local authorities.

Northern Nigeria is a really large region, large in population, large in territorial extension, large in power, large in possession of natural resources. Northern Nigeria has a great historical background and civilisation behind it. The language is rich and full of vocabularies. There is therefore no reason why they should stick to that word “native”.

Refreshing our minds with history, we shall say that the word “native” was first used by the Romans, who overpowered the Britons and then implanted their administration in Britain. The Britons, in their own time, relayed the flag of civilisation to Africa and acquired possessions by different means, by treaty and by—

**Senator Lamai :** Senator Chief Ngiangia should be relevant to the point under discussion. We are not here to trace the genealogy and history of empires.

**The President :** Senator Chief Ngiangia should please continue with his point.

**Senator Chief Majekodunmi :** I think Senator Chief Ngiangia is giving us very useful information.

**The President :** I have already ruled that he should continue with his point.

**Senator Chief Ngiangia :** The word “native”, I think, came into our records at the instance of Lord Lugard of blessed memory. He instituted the native authority just to distinguish it from the colonial administration. Now that the colonial administration is gone—we said goodbye to it in 1960—there is now no part of Nigeria which is “native”.

We have three types of government—the regional governments, the federal government and the local governments under the regional governments. All of them are manned by Nigerians and not by other people. I am therefore suggesting to the Senate to transmit it right away to the relevant quarters that the word “native” should be scrapped in our administration.

**Senator Zanna Medalla Sheriff :** On a point of order, I still maintain that Senator Chief Ngiangia is irrelevant because the word “native” is not only used in Northern Nigeria but it is also used all over the Federation. Furthermore, it is very interesting that the Senator has thought of reminding the Senate of the issue but unfortunately the Motion—

**The President :** What should be taken into consideration is whether what Senator Chief Ngiangia is saying has anything to do with the Motion before us. In this respect, I am saying that he is relevant and that he should proceed.



**Senator Chief Ngiangia :** Mr President, I am being very much disturbed, but I am still on my point. Our great region, the Northern Region, I suggest, should adopt the word "Local" or "customary", whichever they choose, or some words should be found in the rich Hausa Language to replace—

**Senator T. A. Idowu :** On a point of order, I am still on the question of irrelevancy. The Motion before us is on the issue of increasing the membership of the Northern Legislature. But what my Friend, Senator Chief Ngiangia is saying is entirely outside the terms of the Motion. He should tell us history when the time comes.

**The President :** The relevancy or irrelevancy of any matter here depends on my own judgment, and I say that Senator Chief Ngiangia is relevant. I realise what he is doing for the House and I want him to continue.

**Senator Chief Ngiangia :** I would like very humbly to ask our friends in Northern Nigeria to be kind enough to consider my point so that no person would feel that he is superior to another person in the same region. I know there are rural areas, and when we refer to the people in the rural areas as "natives" we seem to imply that those of us in the towns are superior to them. I feel that we should refer to our institutions also as "Nigerian" institutions and use such names as Local Government, Customary Courts instead of using the word "native".

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief (Mrs) Wuraola Esan :** I would like to support the Motion. In doing so I would like to remind my Northern brothers that now that we have female members in the N.N.A., and even in Parliament representing the N.N.A., it is time the women of the North had the franchise.

**Senator Zanna Medalla Sheriff :** On a point of order, this is irrelevant.

**Senator Chief (Mrs) Esan :** It is relevant for me to remind our Northern brothers of their promise that the women of the Northern Region will be given the franchise in due course. I am only appealing to them to make that "due course" soon.

I beg to support.

**Senator A. E. O. Ukattah :** I think I should speak briefly. I had wanted to speak immediately after Senator Chief Ngiangia and remind him that the Romans left Britain in AD 410.

This Motion seeks to enlarge the membership of each of the two Northern Houses and the enlargement is in keeping with the present population of the Northern Region. I think the keen desire of the Northern Government to enlarge the Legislature springs from the fact that the Government would like the two Houses to be truly representative of every section of the Northern Region.

I think that the second reason is to ensure that the various sections and elements making up the population received adequate consideration. This being so, my appeal is that since we have a large number of people who are not Northerners living in the North, and who contribute a great deal to the increase in population and to the economic advancement of that Region, consideration should be given to them especially in the House of Chiefs so that some of them will be considered as Special Members of the House of Chiefs.

I know that it may be rather difficult for them to win any election into the House of Assembly owing to the various practices now going on during elections.

**Senator Malachias Bawa :** On a point of information, I would like the Senator to tell this Senate how many Northerners are in the House of Chiefs in the Eastern Region.

**The President :** That is not a point of information. You are asking a question.

**Minister of State (Senator Alhaji Nuhu Bamali) :** On a point of information, I would like to tell the Senator that Northern Nigeria has been leading all the other parts of the Federation in taking into account members of other Regions who are resident there. We have incorporated them in all our local government systems. I have some people who are prepared to bear me out here. They are members of our courts and even of our administration. And until recently, one of them was a Special Member of the Northern House of Assembly representing the Eastern Region.

**Senator Ukattah :** I would say then, that my appeal is an appeal to people who are already reasonable, and if I have to make another appeal to people who are already reasonable, it would only be to ask them for an increase in the number of such representatives. I hope it is no trespass on their generosity. But I think it is reasonable.

One Senator at least, does not understand what is happening in the country, and he asked for the number of Northerners in the Eastern House of Chiefs. May I say that for many years the Mayor of the Regional Capital of the Eastern Region, Enugu, was a Northerner by the name of Alhaji Umoru Altine.

**Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku :** But in the end, he was gaoled!

**Senator Ukattah :** I can only add that his imprisonment in the East was as a result of the fact that he was trying to show that the people of Enugu were becoming too kind to him.

**Senator Alhaji Nuhu Bamali :** On a point of order, I would not like the Senator to continue with the argument he is now bringing up.

**Senator Ukattah :** I would not like to continue with it myself, but I was pushed into saying it. My appeal is that since the people of the North have done so much in the direction of recognising the presence of other people of non-Northern origin in their Region, they should continue to improve on that.

I beg to support.

**Senator J. K. Nzerem :** I am going to say something that is very different from what everybody else has said, and is going to be relevant too. Whether in the East, North, West, Mid-West or the Federal Territory, we should stop increasing the membership of Legislatures. It is a sheer waste of public money. What 312 people can do in the House of Representatives, half that number can do the same thing, if not better.

I think we should think of cutting down the number of Members in the various Houses and use the money for developing this country in the interest of the poorer people. While I am not going to oppose this Motion, I would like to say that when the time comes for a review of

our Constitution, we should take care of this question. The number of Members in our various Regional Houses is too large.

**Minister of State (Senator D. Ibekwe) :** May I inform the Senator that the Regional Governments are not doing this just because they want to do so. Under their Constitutions there is the provision that a competent authority has to review the membership of their Legislatures if there has been a valid census. And we have had one. That is why they are now reviewing it. So that they are working in accordance with their Constitutions.

**Senator Nzerem :** I quite agree with the hon. Minister. I am not opposing the Motion at all. I beg to support.

**Senator Nzerem :** I quite agree with what the Minister has just said. I am not opposing the Motion at all, but I just want to warn that we should try to stop this continuous increase of Legislators. As our population continues to increase, there will come a time when the houses built for the Legislators will be too small to accommodate them.

**Senator Chief S. Longe :** I thank you, Mr President, for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this debate.

This Motion is not controversial at all, I only have two appeals to make through this House to the Premier of the Northern Region.

The first appeal is that in distributing these seats, he should please remember the people of Igbomina in Ilorin Province of Northern Nigeria. They are not well represented in the present Northern House of Assembly.

The second appeal is that the Premier promised the other time that he is waiting for an expert report before deciding on the extension of franchise to women. I think it is high time the people of this country knew about this report so that by the time the next election to the Northern House of Assembly is held, the women of the North will have the same right as their counterparts in the East, the West, the Mid-West and Lagos.

We would very much like to have a Northern woman as a Senator during the next sitting of the Senate.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief E. U. Uti :** I am grateful to the President for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Motion which is non-controversial.

May I contribute to this debate by associating myself with the views expressed by Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku. We are discussing the question of enlarging the House of Assembly and the House of Chiefs in the Northern Region. The same thing is going to happen in the West, the East and the Mid-West. I would like to sound a note of warning. We are not very happy with the conduct of our elections in Nigeria where the Government in power will be rigging elections in order to bring their supporters into the Government by the back door.

I am appealing to this House that the time shall come when Senators will have to supervise elections in all posts of the Republic so that democracy can be maintained in this country. If this is not done, there is no need for an hon. Member to come to Parliament and say he is representing 100,000 people when in his constituency, ballot papers were just dumped into the ballot box.

I beg to support.

**Minister of State (Senator Alhaji Nuhu Bamali) :** I just want to ask a question from the Senator who has just spoken. He has made a very important remark about rigging of elections by a Regional Government. I hope he is not referring to the Northern Regional Government. The Northern Nigeria Government has never rigged any election.

**Senator E. I. Onewokae :** May I join Senator Nzerem in criticising the increase in the membership of the Northern House of Chiefs and the Northern House of Assembly. Senators must realise that we owe a duty to the taxpayers of this country, most of whom already feel that Members of Parliament have the power to do anything. There are many unemployed people in this country and when we keep on increasing the membership of our Legislatures—

**The President :** I hope that the Senator heard the explanation of the hon. Minister. This thing is not done out of desire, it is only a question of complying with the Constitution of the country.

**Senator Onewokae :** Even though we are complying with the Constitution of the country—

**The President :** Order, when you know the facts as they are, it is your responsibility not to say things to mis-direct the minds of the populace on the issue.

**Senator Onewokae :** I cannot contribute further to this debate in as much as I have been called to order that what I have said is irrelevant.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief U. A. Ekefre :** I have very few remarks to make on this Motion. I agree with the Senator who said a few minutes ago that we should take particular care when increasing the membership of our Legislatures. I would say that even though it is provided in our Constitution that we can increase the membership of our Legislatures, we as fathers of the nation should warn the politicians on this important issue. We all know what happened during the last election.

Now that the membership of the Legislature is going to be increased we can be sure that the trouble will be more than what happened in the past. I feel personally that the present membership of our Regional Houses of Chiefs and Assembly should not be increased.

Senators will no doubt agree with me when I say that I believe in the words of Henry VIII when he said "The fewer the men, the greater the honour". If we increase the membership of our Legislatures, it means that we have to spend more money, I will even go further to suggest that we cut down a little the present number of Legislators. Since our Constitution is going to be reviewed, I feel the increase in the membership of our Legislatures should wait until after the Constitutional review.

I feel this House should uphold this Motion—

**The President :** Does the Senator mean to say "withhold" or "uphold".

**Senator Chief Ekefre :** I must say what is in my mind ; there is no urgency in this matter. The Motion should be suspended. There is no urgency about it. We have just come to the end of a battle and the battle is not yet over. We have to protect our funds. There are no funds with which to pay extra Members of the Regional Houses of Assembly, be it in the

Northern Region, Eastern Region, Mid-Western Region, Western Region, or even the Federal territory.

I am not in agreement that this Motion should be passed now.

**Senator Zanna Medalla Sheriff** : Thank you very much Mr President for giving me the opportunity to speak on this Motion.

Some Senators are mis-informed about what is going on in the Northern Region in general. Speaking in support of this Motion, I would say that it has been clearly pointed out that the Northern Nigeria Government is exercising its constitutional right in wanting to increase the number of legislators in its Regional Houses of Legislature. They are not asking for a special favour to enable them extend it.

I hope also, that Senators will realise that the last census figures have been accepted. Considering these two points, the Northern Region is autonomous and besides, it has the power to exercise its own right in its Regional Legislature. I do not think that there is anything that can stop it from doing so. After all a Minister of State has clearly pointed out to us that there is no reason why the Northern Regional Government cannot exercise its constitutional right and I am sure that the Northern Regional Government has not done more than that.

The Northern Regional Government wants all shades of opinion, and all ethnic groups in the Northern Region to be represented in its Regional Houses of Legislature. Senators are aware of the fact that the cry in Nigeria now is that if a clan consists of, say, twenty people, they expect to be represented either in the Regional House of Assembly or in the House of Chiefs. We must be guided by public opinion. If we are not going to be guided by public opinion, then we are doing disservice to this country. If any group, or any clan or any section wishes to be represented in any Legislature and the Regional Government of that Region has the power to get them represented, then the obvious thing to do is to satisfy the people. I do not think that Senators would quarrel over this issue.

I have been made to understand that either some Senators are not interested in the affairs of the Northern Region or they are slightly

mis-informed on what is going on in the Northern Region, so that they are no longer interested to know what is exactly happening in the Northern Region.

For instance, a Senator mentioned something about the use of the word "native" and if I remember correctly, that fishy word was touched upon in the Regional Legislature sometime ago. The matter is now being attended to and one of the changes so far made is that now we have Sharia Courts instead of what was formerly known as native courts. I do not think that some of the Senators are aware of this change. Therefore, things are gradually changing in the Northern Region. The Northern Region is not static as many Senators are thinking. The North is very, very progressive in all walks of life.

I would like to touch on this question of chieftaincy affair which was raised by Senator Ukattah. I do not know his constituency, but I know that he must have come from some part of Nigeria. He made a very good suggestion, but the Senator should know that the Northern Regional Government was the first Government to establish and uphold the chieftaincy institution in this country and the other Regions followed later.

**Senator Chief S. O. Longe** : On a point of order, our own chieftaincy institution in the Western Region had been existing for a long time before that of the Northern Region.

**Minister of State** (Senator Alhaji Nuhu Bamali) : On a point of order, I think that Senator Zanna Medalla Sheriff and Senator Longe are both right. But what Senator Sheriff is trying to say is that since the British occupation of this country, the Northern Region has endeavoured to make the chieftaincy institution an integral part of government machinery. It has been so much integrated as part of the machinery of Government that it was found unnecessary to introduce a direct rule in this country. That is what the Senator tried to say. He was not trying to say that we had our own Chieftaincy institution before that of anywhere else, but that since the British occupation, we in the Northern Region have tried to force the British to make chiefs an integral part of the Government machinery.

**Senator Zanna Sheriff :** I have to thank the Minister of State for the clarification he made and at the same time I have to thank Senator Longe. Of course, we in the Northern Region and the people of the Western Region have a common background.

**Senator Ukattah :** That is a highly controversial statement.

**Senator Zanna Sheriff :** I would now like to touch the question of enfranchisement of women in the Northern Region. A Senator mentioned it too.

**Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu :** On a point of order, the Senator speaking is replying to all the points raised by the Senators who spoke before him. I would ask him to say his own opinion about the Motion.

**The President :** That is not a point of order.

**Senator Zanna Sheriff :** As Senators are aware, the Northern Regional Government has handed over the issue of enfranchisement of our women to Moslem experts who will examine the possibility of doing so, and I am sure that their report will soon be made available. As I said earlier on, there are certain things about the North on which Senators have been misinformed. I think that the President of the Senate can bear witness to that effect.

These, so far, are the points which I would like to clarify on the Floor of this House. The Bill in itself is very progressive and most welcome and as such, I hope that Senators should not support the idea of deferring this Motion. There should be no question of deferment at all.

**Senator T. A. Idowu :** In associating myself with the previous Senators, I just want to make one or two points. This Motion is just asking for an increase in the number of Legislators in the Northern Houses of Legislature. It is my strong belief that both the men and women of Northern Region motivated this increase. I would have been pleased, as other Senators have already said earlier, if the Northern women were compensated by appointing them as Members of this Senate. If at the moment they cannot stand election, as long as the matter is in the hands of experts,

what compensation are we giving them? Some of these women are intellectuals too. I have met a lot of them.

Some Senators are asking me where I met them. When I talk about the North, I am talking about Ilorin Province right from Offa.

I think these women should be compensated. They do not have to wait for the report of the experts. After all, one does not need to contest elections before one is appointed a Member of this Senate, and I think actually that they should be made Members of this Senate.

A Senator is asking if these women appealed to me. I would like to inform him that I am holding their brief.

Further more, there are certain things which I feel should be said. One of them is the question of election, because somebody said here that in increasing this membership, there must be some sort of election. However, I think the Regional Government in the North will make sure that the election is free and fair.

I beg to support.

**Minister of State (Chief J. I. G. Onyia) :** I wish to remind my fellow Senators that we are under oath to uphold the Constitution, and since the Constitution confers autonomy on regional authorities, we should be no impediment whatsoever in the exercise of their authority. So that while we may be free to express our opinion, let us not be an impediment in upholding the Constitution and therefore—

**Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu :** On a point of order, is Senator Chief Onyia making a Ministerial Statement?

**Senator Chief Onyia :** I am making my own contribution.

**The President :** Order. Senator Chief Onyia is a Senator apart from being a Minister. Senator Chief Onyia, please proceed.

**Senator Chief Onyia :** All I said was that after exercising our freedom of opinion, we should do what is right, allowing the autonomy of the North to go unchallenged. That is all.

**Senator E. A. Lamai :** This Motion is non-controversial. It is straightforward and simple. The increase in the population of

Northern Nigeria necessarily demands an increase in the membership of the Legislature, and since the Region is autonomous, it should be autonomous in the exercise of its constitutional powers. So, I do not associate myself with Senators who request that the Motion be deferred.

I agree with the Senators who have said that in enlarging these two Legislatures, consideration should be given to other ethnic groups like the Yorubas, the Binis and the Easterners resident in the North. In fact, somebody spoke about the representation of other ethnic groups in the Northern House of Chiefs.

I have lived in the North for fifteen years and I think I know something about the custom of the people, even though I am not a Muslim. I do speak Hausa and even Guari. It will make for the oneness of Nigeria if the Premier of the North Sir Ahmadu Bello would consider looking at all the Regions as members of one family under the fatherhood of God without in any way showing that Northern Nigeria is Nigeria alone, or that Northern Nigeria is not part of Nigeria.

We can preach these things and theorise on them, but to put them into practice is the difficult point. So, I am suggesting that in enlarging these legislative Houses, the Premier of the North should do service to this nation and demonstrate his sense of the oneness of this country by appointing special Members to these Houses from other ethnic groups outside Northern Nigeria.

In effect, one would see that the North, East, West, Mid-West and the Federal Capital form one Federation.

This is my appeal, and with these remarks, I support the Motion.

**Senator Chief R. A. Umoh :** This is a non-controversial Motion, all right, and I stand to support it. But in supporting it, I have to make it known to the House that we always follow the Constitution.

There was a certain book I read and it is known as "The King's New Clothes". It is about a king who stood before his people naked, and anybody who said that the king was naked was regarded as a stupid person. As the little children were shouting "Look, the king is

going about naked", their parents tried to tell them, "Do not say it because if you do, you will be called stupid fellows". So the king was left to go about naked in the market.

Now, we speak about the Constitution and about upholding the Constitution. The main factors that make up a nation are census—the accuracy of census figures—and—

**The President :** I think that is irrelevant. Please do not bring in the issue of census.

**Senator Chief Umoh :** I am not bringing it in, but it is a side issue any-way.

Another thing I would like to touch on a bit—

**The Minister of Health (Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi) :** Mr President, I would like to inform Senator Chief Umoh that there is no naked king in this House.

**Senator Chief Umoh :** Another thing I would like to touch on a bit as regards the Constitution is the appointment of Members into the House. The Region itself knows exactly what to do, and I think it is going to do what it knows to be right. But the important factors, of course, which I do not want to mention at all—otherwise it would be just like the king, and they will say I am naked—

**Senator Chief Ezeogo Ugwuocha :** Mr President, Senator Chief Umoh's beard is dancing !

**Senator Chief Umoh :** I talk no more, otherwise my beard will be dancing.

**The President :** I have to direct the House properly in this matter. When you are talking about the representation of all the ethnic groups in the North, I would like you to talk about it in terms of what other sections are doing too. Otherwise, if you continue to say so, it would appear as if all the other sections have northerners in their Legislatures and the North has none of the other sections in theirs. You have to know what you are talking about because all these things go to create bitterness unnecessarily.

**Senator Chief Umoh :** I thank you, Mr President, for giving me the chance to continue. There is a little point which I want to touch on, although, perhaps, the House may not like it. I mentioned the first point and I was shouted down. My second point is that we should

[SENATOR CHIEF UMOH]

uphold the Constitution during any election. It is not only when certain things happen that we should talk about upholding the Constitution. We must uphold the Constitution whenever these two factors—census and election—are being held. Those are the main factors of the Constitution.

**Senator Chief R. A. Babalola :** I rise to support this Motion. I agree with the previous speakers that the Motion is non-controversial. I have the impression in my mind that the President has been kind enough to allow speeches to continue on this Motion.

There is one point which I would like to make. I do not agree that enlarging the membership of the Northern Regional Houses of Chiefs and Assembly will have adverse effect on the economic stability of the country. When we are considering a Motion of this nature, we must consider the traditional background of this country. This is the case everywhere in Africa. Everybody wants to be represented. Even the corporations want to be represented. I think that this Motion has done a lot of good for the politicians because each and everyone of them knows how much it cost him to fight for his nomination in his party caucus. If, now, in a constituency with a population of, say, ten thousand or two hundred thousand we can have two gentlemen there, there will be no need for the two gentlemen to go and put money into the hands of the electors in the shadow election. It has done a lot of good to the people who want to go into the House.

I beg to support.

*Whereupon Senator J. K. Nzerem rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.*

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

*Main Question accordingly put.*

**The President :** In order to satisfy the requirements of Section 5 (4) of the Constitution, the House will now proceed to a Division.

*The House Divided.*

Ayes : 53

Noes : Nil.

AYES

Seat No.	Name of Senator
1	Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba
2	Senator Chief M. G. Ejaiife
3	Senator Alhaji Hassan Rafindadi
4	Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu
5	Senator Zana Medalla Sheriff
6	Senator J. K. Nzerem
8	Senator Abdul Salami Yusufu
9	Senator Chief (Mrs) Wuraola Esan
10	Senator Muhammadu Sani Dingyadi
12	Senator Chief E. U. Uka
13	Senator Chief J. M. Egbuson
14	Senator Rev. A. M. Olaleye
15	The Oba of Lagos (Senator Oba Adeyinka Oyekan II)
16	Senator (Mrs) B. U. Kerry
17	Senator Chief J. M. Ajayi-Obe
19	Senator Chief R. A. Umoh
20	Senator Alhaji Sani Ungogo
21	Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku
22	Senator Malachias Bawa
23	Senator Chief S. Owoadé
24	Senator Chief M. B. Chukwubike
25	Senator Alhaji Ahmed Metteden
26	Senator Chief P. C. Ndu
27	Senator A. Adefarakan
28	Senator A. E. Ukattah
29	Senator Chief Aminu Kosoko (The Asajon of Lagos)
30	Senator Chief Acholonu
31	Senator Chief J. I. Idehen
34	Senator Chief E. A. Asemah
35	Senator Thomas A. Idowu
36	Senator Alhaji Usman Waziri Kontagora
37	Senator Chief E. U. Uti
38	Senator S. A. R. Anifowoshe
39	Senator Chief R. A. Babalola
40	Senator Chief P. E. Nakoku
41	Senator Chief S. A. Lateju
42	Senator Chief J. O. Ngiangia
43	Senator E. I. Onewokae
44	Senator Abdulai Lamurde
45	Senator Ekpeboriri A. Lamai
46	Senator Chief F. G. Ojehomon
47	Senator Chief Asuquo Nyon
48	Senator Idirisu Tafidan Adamawa
49	Senator Chief S. O. Longe
50	Senator Chief A. O. Airewele
51	Senator Chief A. U. Ekefre
52	Senator Chief J. Adebowale
53	Senator H. O. Abaagu
	Minister of Health
	Minister of State, Senator Alhaji Nuhu Bamali
	Minister of State, Senator M. A. O. Olarewaju
	Minister of State, Senator Daniel O. Ibekwe
	Minister of State, Senator J. I. G. Onyia

NOES

Nil

ABSTENTIONS

Nil.

*Question accordingly agreed to.*

*Resolved:* That, in accordance with the provision of section 5 (4) of the Constitution of the Federation, this House signifies its consent to the Constitution of Northern Nigeria (Amendment) Law, 1965, having effect.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL  
(AMENDMENT) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Health** (Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi): I rise to move—

That a Bill for an Act to alter the composition of the University College Hospital Board of Management, be read a Second time.

This is a short Bill, the purpose of which is to increase the membership of the Management Board of the University College Hospital, Ibadan, in order to reflect the recent constitutional change. The recent constitutional change which I have in mind is the creation of the Mid-Western Nigeria State.

The original law had been passed before the creation of the State, and it is necessary that we should amend the law to make room for representatives of the Mid-West on the Board of Management of the University College Hospital, Ibadan. For this purpose, we have sought to increase the membership of the Board, so that we could ask for nominees from the Mid-West to take their place in the Board.

I know the Mid-West—the youngest state in the Republic—is very dear to the hearts of the Senators, because the founder of the Mid-West was the President of this Senate; and many of the people who worked for the creation of that State were members of this Senate. I have in mind the contribution which the late Senator Asemota made to the creation of that State.

I have no doubt that this Bill which is consequential on the creation of that State will commend itself to the House.

I beg to move.

**Minister of State** (Senator M. A. O. Olarewaju): I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL  
(AMENDMENT) BILL : CONSIDERED IN  
COMMITTEE

*Clause 1—(ALTERATION OF COMPOSITION OF BOARD OF MANAGEMENT).*

**Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku:** I would like to make a point subsection (4). I only want to know from the Minister of Health if the presence of the Minister of Finance is so vital at the meetings of the Board as to provide for his being notified of every meeting, and of his representative going there from time to time to speak? Why not make the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, an *ex-officio* member, in the same way as the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, as well as the Chief Medical Adviser to the Ministry? That is just what I want to be made clear to me, because special provision is now made for the Minister of Finance to be notified of meetings, and he can attend or send his representative to speak. Why not make his Permanent Secretary an *ex-officio* member?

**Senator Chief Majekodunmi:** We do not consider it necessary to make the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, an *ex-officio* member of this Body; but it is very often necessary that the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, should send his representative to advise the Board on financial matters. That is why this provision is made, and also to enable the Permanent Secretary himself to take part in the proceedings of the Board.

**Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku:** This is one of the things which, in my opinion, lead to confusion in this country. There must be somebody on the Board to advise it on financial matters. That is understood; but the very man who goes to the Board meetings to advise it on financial matters cannot take decisions with the Board. This is because the main object of the provision is to allow for that man to be present, but not to join in taking decisions. If the presence of the Minister is so important on financial matters, and his advice will influence financial administration of the Board, why not make him an *ex-officio* member of the Board straightaway?



[SENATOR CHIEF FAGBENRO-BEYIOKU]

I still insist, and I want the Minister of Health (perhaps after the passing of the Bill), to give further consideration to this point. If the presence of the Minister is so important on financial matters, let him be an *ex-officio* member of the Board.

**Senator Chief S. Longe :** I am speaking on section (2) (b) of this Clause. Would the Minister please explain to this House why it is necessary for the Senate of the University of Ibadan to appoint six members to the Board of Management?

**Senator Chief Majekodunmi :** It is necessary that the Senate of the University of Ibadan should be adequately represented on the Board of Management, because it is intended that the Hospital should be an institution where medical students are trained; and the members of the Senate should be on the Board to enable the Board to provide the necessary standards of treatment and facilities which the teachers in the medical school would utilise for the training of medical students.

*Clause 1—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 2—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Schedule agreed to.*

*Bill reported, without Amendment, read the Third time and passed.*

#### VALIDATION OF MARRIAGES (NORTHERN NIGERIA) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji Shehu Shagari) :** I rise to move—

That a Bill for an Act to validate certain marriages in Northern Nigeria and for connected matters, be read a Second time.

This is a simple Bill. Due to certain administrative changes which took place in Northern Nigeria in 1962, it has become doubtful whether the officials now performing the duties of Registrar of Marriages there do it legally or are not entitled to do so. Also, doubt has been expressed as to the validity of delegations made to these officials under Sections 6 and 13 of the Marriage Act.

Legal opinion is therefore that the marriages performed under these circumstances might well be invalid. The purpose of the Bill, therefore, is to validate all such marriages, so

that the couples concerned might suffer no hardship through circumstances which were not of their own making.

This is a non-controversial Bill, and I beg to move.

**Minister of State (Senator D. O. Ibekwe)** I beg to second.

**Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku :** I do not think there is much in this; I only want to draw attention to one thing connected with marriages in this country.

As a matter of fact, I do believe that this relates to marriages contracted under what we call the "former English law" or the "Church law". In the North, there are various forms of marriages—the Moslem marriage, which we call the "Regional form of marriage", and then the "English marriage". Throughout the Federation of Nigeria this question of marriage is becoming a very important one. As long as we continue to adopt the European form of marriage without giving any projection or significance to the African form of marriage, I think we shall be doing the country much harm and what is more, we shall be making many children suffer both now and in the future.

I only want to appeal to the Minister of Internal Affairs and the Federal Government as a whole, for that matter, that the time has come when Nigerian forms of marriage should be properly codified and recognised, and that we should cease to belabour ourselves about this English form of marriage of which we know very little.

The time has come when we must codify our own systems of marriage throughout the Federation and get them registered. Anybody who marries under any of these systems should be registered. If a system provides for one wife, anyone who marries under that system should be so registered. If the system provides for ten wives or one hundred wives recognition should be given to anyone who marries under the system. I feel that this is what we need now. It is high time we stopped belabouring ourselves about this European form of marriage.

**Senator H. O. Abaagu :** I would like to speak on this Bill by making an enquiry. To add to what Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku has just said, I think that there are not only two,

but about three forms of marriage in the North. There is marriage in accordance with the Moslem Law; there is marriage in accordance with English Law, and there is marriage in accordance with Native Law and Custom.

The Minister of Internal Affairs has just said that certain of the registrars of these forms of marriage are perhaps performing marriages illegally. I would like to know which form of marriage the Minister was referring to. Is it the one performed under Moslem Law, or English Law or the one under Native Law and Custom?

Apart from what I have just said, I think that this is a welcome Bill taking into consideration the growing number of prostitutes in the country. I believe that any steps taken in the way of rehabilitating our girls is welcome.

**The Minister of Internal Affairs** (Alhaji Shehu Shagari): The Senator who spoke about the registration of marriages other than the English type of marriage, I think, struck a point which is really very important and which we are considering at the moment. There are of course various types of marriage—marriage under customary law and marriage under Moslem law—in Nigeria, and the question of whether or not to register these types of marriage has been under consideration for some time in my Ministry and we are now in consultation with the Ministry of Justice and the local authorities in the Federal Territory as well as with the Regional Governments. We are all considering what to do. I am not going to say more but I assure Senators that we are considering this matter very seriously.

Of course, this particular Bill is concerned with the type of marriage under the Marriage Act—the European type of marriage—and this is the only type of marriage covered by this particular Bill.

Another Senator talked about the types of marriage in the North and their validity. Well, we consider all the other types of marriage valid, but this particular type of marriage requires to be validated by law, and the validity here is only in the case of the registrar—the person who registers the marriage.

Since 1962, registrars of marriage in the North were under different titles. They were once called Residents or District Officers but

now we have Provincial Commissioners and Provincial Secretaries. That is the only difference. They are still one and the same person. The difference arises because of the change in designation and this is what we now want to validate. Whether the marriage is done by the Provincial Secretary or the Resident it is just the same thing.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read a Second time; immediately considered in Committee; reported without Amendment; read the Third time and passed.*

#### CUSTOMS AND EXCISE MANAGEMENT

(AMENDMENT) BILL 1965

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Health** (Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi): I beg to move—

That a Bill for an Act to amend the Customs and Excise Management Act 1958 by making provision in certain cases for the retention of records by the Police: and for the avoidance of doubt as to the exercise of the right of appeal by a prosecutor in particular cases, be now read a Second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to confer, in respect of offences under the Customs and Excise Law, power to retain for record purposes and subsequent use, measurements, photographs, or finger-print impression of persons in lawful custody; and on a prosecutor to appeal to a superior court against any decision of a court of summary jurisdiction.

The Customs and Excise Management Act of 1958 has been found to be defective in stamping out smuggling in this country. It is for that purpose that this Amendment has been brought before the Senate. Hitherto, persons who are suspected of smuggling goods into the country or fraudulently evading payment of duties and who are kept in police custody cannot be traced again should they be apprehended for similar offences.

But by the passage of this Bill it would be possible for the police to retain the records of such people. They will photograph their finger-prints and other impressions which will enable the police to identify them should they again be apprehended for similar offences.

[MINISTER OF HEALTH]

That is the purpose of this Bill, and the records so kept by the Police cannot be used for any other case except the cases connected with the contravention of the Customs and Excise Management Act of 1958, and even then they can only be used with the consent of the judge or magistrate hearing the case.

This law also makes provision for the prosecutor, the police prosecutor, to appeal against the with-holding of such a consent by the presiding magistrate and therefore the prosecutor could then appeal to a superior court should the magistrate refuse the permission of the police to make use of the record which they obtained when the accused person was being tried, who had previously been apprehended and had been suspected of fraudulent practices in connection with customs duties.

This Bill is not so straight-forward, I must say, but at the same time it is quite self-explanatory. Anybody who has taken time to read through it would see that it enables law enforcement officers to tighten their grip on those people who are in the habit of defrauding the revenue of this country by smuggling goods into the country.

I beg to move.

**Senator Chief Ezeogo Ugwuocha :** I would like to support this Bill and in doing so, I would like to make a few comments. I would like to point out to this House that the police themselves are taking part in this smuggling of goods.

**The President :** Is the Senator saying that some of the police officers do so ?

**Senator Chief Ezeogo Ugwuocha :** Yes Sir, that is what I mean, some of them.

**The President :** Please say so ; and do not bring all of them into it.

**Senator Chief Ezeogo Ugwuocha :** I am saying that some of them are taking part in this act.

**The President :** Then, the Senator should make a report to the Police authorities.

**Senator Chief Ezeogo Ugwuocha :** Last month, some of them were caught.

**th A Senator :** Does Senator Chief Ugwuocha buy these smuggled goods ?

**Senator Chief Ezeogo Ugwuocha :** No, I do not buy them. I would like the Minister-in-charge of the Police to ensure that when thumb impressions are being taken, the police themselves should take their own thumb impressions.

I beg to support.

**Senator J. K. Nzerem :** I must support any measure that is adopted to make smuggling in this country an impossibility. We have good honest men who have suffered as a result of smuggling. It is true that occasionally we may find one corrupt policeman who takes part in smuggling or encourages it in one way or another. But, on the whole, I think that both the police and the customs officers have done very good work and are still doing their utmost to discourage this undesirable practice.

I think that members of the public have their own duty to do in stamping out smuggling. If there is no buyer of smuggled goods, then smuggling will soon stop. Very important people, and I say some of the people who go to the Houses of Parliament to condemn smuggling do buy these smuggled goods. I am sure Senators know that what I am saying is true.

I have been to Okopedi Itu. Spanish Brandy is sold there very openly. There is nobody in Itu who will say that he does not buy it.

**Several Senators :** You bought it too ?

**Senator Nzerem :** My host bought it and we drank it.

**The Minister of Health (Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi) :** This is a very important confession on the part of my friend Senator Nzerem, and I think the Minister of Justice will agree with me that the Senator is an accomplice.

**Senator Nzerem :** This reminds me of a certain case that was taken to court sometime ago. It was a case of smuggling sugar. A counsel was defending an accused person. The counsel said, "My Lord this is not sugar", and the judge replied, "it is sugar". The counsel then said, "my Lord, if you taste it, you will agree with me that it is not sugar".

The judge tasted it and then the Counsel turned round and said, "my Lord, you are also an accomplice". (*Laughter.*)

I went to my friend and he produced brandy and we drank it. I later saw, by carefully examining the bottle that it was Spanish brandy, and I know that Spanish brandy is not sold publicly in the shops. I know that in places like Itu, Arochuku, Enyong and Ibibio, it is common place to buy these things. I am saying that if people will refuse to buy them, then there will be no more cases of smuggling.

**Several Senators :** But you bought it.

**Senator Nzerem :** I did not buy any. When I was returning from England in 1953, I bought one bottle of whisky in Las Palmas. Passengers were allowed one bottle each and I bought only one bottle. I also bought one bottle of Gordon's Gin. I paid eleven shillings for the gin, but when I returned to the boat, the "M.V. Aureol", I found that others paid ten shillings for it. Just ten shillings for a bottle of real genuine Gordon's Gin, which costs two guineas here in Lagos; that shows how rich these smugglers are waxing daily.

We showed these bottles to the Ship Master and were permitted to take one on board. I should have bought up to one hundred bottles if I had wanted as my luggage was not searched by the customs officers. But it was a wrong thing to do, and I did not do so.

I am appealing to the Government to use every means at its disposal to make people realise that we are losing revenue by this practice. If the Government will do this, I will do anything that is possible to assist and encourage them.

I beg to support.

**Senator H. O. Abaagu :** Duties on commodities of this nature are the main sources of Government revenue, and any measure taken to retain this revenue from this source is very welcome. One thing I understand is that commodities recovered from smugglers are always destroyed; I think that they should be sold.

Why do we destroy them? In the first place we have got no duty on them and then we destroy them. The Government may argue that they are illicit articles. But I believe that most of these things described as illicit are in

fact not illicit. These laws were imposed on these commodities by the expatriates and the colonialists who wanted to sell their goods. If we say that Spanish brandy or French wine is illicit, how many people have died in Spain or France?

I would suggest that if we recover smuggled goods, we should sell them and pay the money into Government revenue. I have another suggestion: it is that since this crime of smuggling has become very chronic, why do we not give maximum punishment to these smugglers when they are caught? I would suggest death penalty for them, as a deterrent.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief A. O. Airewele :** In supporting this Bill, may I thank the Minister for bringing up such a Bill. Senators will observe that for the past two years or since the drive to check smuggling started, our revenue has been increasing. I feel we should help the Government to fish out smugglers. We have all detected that these people do more harm than good to this country and we should help the Board of Customs and Excise by reporting anybody we find trading in smuggled goods. Smugglers, when they are caught, should be given the punishment they deserve.

I quite appreciate that as the law against smuggling is being tightened up more smugglers will be caught. I would like to suggest that the best way to punish these smugglers is that when they are caught, some of the smuggled goods should be tied to their necks and they should be taken to market places to dance round the markets. I am sure if the smugglers are given this type of punishment, some of them will not go back to the trade again.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief P. C. Ndu :** This is a straightforward Bill. In fact, we have to congratulate the Government for introducing this Bill at this time when we need money for the development of this country. It is by introducing this type of Bill that our people will begin to realise that by encouraging smuggling they are retarding the development of this country.

Some people say that the only people who can help in stopping smuggling are customs officers and policemen. I would say that if Senators search their minds and if we are

[SENATOR CHIEF NDU]

sincere to ourselves, we will find that we can also help in stopping smuggling.

I will appeal to Senators and civil servants that whenever they see smuggled goods or see where they are being sold they should report to the police. By doing this there will be no smuggled goods in this country.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu :** This is a short Bill nevertheless it has a great part to play in the economy of this country. This question of smuggled goods, especially drinks, has been a great problem even before our independence. I am happy that the Minister of Justice is now making provision to retain for record purposes and subsequent use, measurements, photographs, or fingerprint impression of persons in lawful custody suspected of fraudulently evading payment of duty due on any goods.

I quite appreciate that chronic diseases need drastic cure and we know the huge sums of money we are losing through smuggling every year.

Most of the smuggled goods that come into this country are Spanish goods and I want to suggest that, in future, all Spanish boats calling or stopping at our ports should be searched very well and duty charged on all the goods that are going to be deposited in this country. I feel if this is done there will be less smuggled goods in this country.

A Senator says that these goods are brought to this country by canoe. Even if they are brought into this country by canoe, they do not bring these canoes from Spain. They land somewhere before the goods are transferred into the canoes. I am appealing to the Government to increase the strength of our waterguard officers and provide them with good boats so that they can police our rivers and lagoons.

I feel that this question of taking photographs and charging people to court will delay things. What should be done is that, these boats should be ransacked before they discharge their goods. Even if all the boat carried is a bottle of wine and the bottle of wine costs only 2d, duty should be paid on it. If we wait until we see Mr A or Mr B running away with smuggled goods we will not make much progress with the smugglers.

May I suggest that a new law should be enacted to make provision that any ship or boat or canoe that stops in this country or found on Nigerian waters should be ransacked and duty paid on dutiable goods found in the boat before they land in this country.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku :** There is not much to discuss on this Bill but it appears we are concentrating on one aspect and forgetting the other aspect of the Bill—the excise duty we charge on goods produced in this country.

Yesterday, when we were debating the Customs Tariff Bill, 1965, we focussed our attention on the duty collected on imported goods. May I say that it is not only people who import goods that evade duty, the people who manufacture goods in this country also evade duty. Up to the present moment we have—

**Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu :** On a point of order, I wonder if the Senator speaking said something about the manufacture of goods in this country?

**The President :** Proceed, this is not a point of order.

**Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku :** I think Senator Chief Hunponu-Wusu is thinking about some drugs which have just arrived into this country.

These people are to pay excise duty, but up till now, we know very little about the progress of excise duties in this country. For all we know, the Pioneer Industries Act (I am sorry, the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice will put me right, I am not quite sure as to the real name of the Act) which provides for the exemption of excise duties up to a certain time for people who have come to establish industries or goods manufacturing factories in this country, to the extent of the real excise duties being collected from them at the expiration of that period and to the extent that they have played fair with the Government or on the other side have tried fraudulently to evade the payment of excise duties. It has not been our concern to focus attention on those companies trying to evade the payment of excise duties, probably because some of us are directors of such companies, whether normal or dead.

I feel that this Amendment to the principal Act provides mostly for measurements and photographs to be taken and all those things that would be used for evidence provided a judge or a magistrate would accept them. That is the main thing we are discussing now. Apart from that, I am appealing to the Minister of Finance, and the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice for that matter, to look into this question of excise duties payable on goods produced in this country. The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice should look into the operation of the Pioneer Industries Act in order to see the extent to which Nigeria is benefiting from that Act and also the extent to which Nigeria has lost from that Act.

I beg to support.

**The Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (Dr T. O. Elias):** Mr President, may I apologise to you and through you to the House for not being here when the Bill was mentioned. I was in the Lower House dealing with my Head of Estimates and I was answering questions on that Head.

Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku has made one important point that I want to stress, and that is that I was surprised to find that almost all the debate on this Bill has been concentrated on smuggling and how to catch smugglers, whereas the Bill is only incidentally related to the problem.

The real problem we want to tackle here is to make provision for something that is lacking in the Law at the moment. The Customs officers who have the power of Police officers, in this respect, to deal with the people avoiding the payment of duties, lack the power in cases where offenders have been discharged or acquitted, but in no other. It is intended for them to keep the record of the finger prints or other measurements which have been made in the course of investigations.

At the present time, they have no power to retain them, and the accused persons can always demand their finger prints or photographs back—which makes the work of those trying to track them very difficult because they are able thereby to erase all traces of themselves through the photograph so that they will not be easily recognised later.

We are trying to amend that particular aspect of the Law by allowing these records to be retained in all cases wherever someone has been brought forward before the court, so that these could be used in future.

The second aspect of the matter is to enable a prosecutor—those officers who are prosecuting these offenders—to appeal to a superior court. At the moment, once a verdict goes against the prosecutor, he has no remedy; he simply has to accept the decision of the court, whereas it might be on a technical issue or it might be a question of opinion and the judge disagrees with him. So, there would be no opportunity of taking the case higher with a view to having another chance of looking at it. We feel that this arrangement should be provided for.

These are the two things which are lacking in the existing Law which we have tried to make up for in this Bill.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read a Second time; immediately considered in Committee; reported, without Amendment; read the Third time and passed.*

#### ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made and Question proposed, That the Senate do now adjourn—(THE MINISTER OF HEALTH).*

**Senator A. E. Ukattah:** In supporting the Motion for Adjournment, I would like to seize the opportunity to make an important point.

In the present set-up of the Federal Cabinet, six Senators are included. As we all know, we have twelve Senators from each Region and we have four from the Federal territory of Lagos, including his Highness the Oba of Lagos, and we have also four Senators who are Presidential nominee.

Of all the Senators who are Ministers, two of them come from the Northern Region, one from the Mid-West, one from the West and two from amongst the four Senators appointed by the President. There is not even one out of the twelve Senators from the East—which is the second largest Region in the Federal Republic. Now, I do not know whether this glaring omission of any Senator from the East satisfies the idea of a broadly-based Government

**Senator Chief Longe :** On a point of information, Senator Ibekwe is from the East.

**Senator Ukattah :** If Senator Chief Longe had listened to me carefully, he would have understood my point. Of course, he is a new Member in the House and perhaps he does not know what is a Presidential nominee. The four Presidential nominees are different from the twelve representing any of the Regions, and Senator Ibekwe is one of the four Presidential nominees. He does not represent the East as such, although I know quite well that he is an Easterner.

So, I am saying that of the twelve from the East, not even one was considered when in fact we have two considered from the North, one from the Mid-West and one from the West. I know that the Constitution does not say that one should come from among the twelve from each Region, but based on the idea of a broadly-based Government one must, therefore, expect that a broadly-based Government must cover a large area to make room for representatives from all the Regions. This is not so now.

I do not know whether the President is aware of this, and if that is so, what are his

reactions? I think this is something that has to be cleared.

**The Minister of Health** (Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi) : I very much appreciate the feeling of my Friend, Senator Ukattah, but I do feel that when a very important point like this is going to be raised, adequate notice should be given so that a debate like this could be fruitful. Otherwise, we shall just make allegations without adequate answer from the Government side and this might cause some misunderstanding throughout the country. I do not think that such a statement does make for the spirit with which the broadly-based Government was formed.

I would like to appeal to my Friend to please avoid this subject now.

**The President :** The actual question is that to bring up such a Motion on Adjournment, Senator Ukattah should notify the Prime Minister.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved:* That this House do now adjourn.

*Adjourned accordingly at twenty-five minutes past twelve o'clock.*

SENATE OF THE FEDERAL  
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Friday, 30th April, 1965

The Senate met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

OATHS

Oath of Allegiance was administered to the following new Members—

Mr R. O. A. Akinjide (Minister of Education)

Mr C. B. Babajide (Minister of State)

Chief B. O. Olusola (Minister of State)

Mr J. Jamabo (Minister of State)

Mr Akubakar Isandu (Minister of State)

Alhaji Yusuff Maitama Sule (Minister of  
Mines and Power)

Shettima Ali Monguno (Minister of State)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

INCOME TAX (RENTS) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**Minister of State** (Onyiba Aja Nwachuku) :  
I beg to move—

That a Bill for an Act to make provision for the granting of relief from income tax on rents received in respect of certain dwelling houses ; and for purposes connected therewith, be read a Second time.

The Bill does not seek to lay down any new law. It merely repeals and re-enacts in plainer language a piece of legislation which already exists in the form of the Income Tax (Rents) Act, 1963, under which, during the initial years of his ownership of certain income-yielding dwelling houses situate in the Federal territory of Lagos, a Federal taxpayer is granted tax relief in respect of rental income derived from such houses.

Before the 1963 Act was enacted the heavy burden of income tax, especially when the rent received on a dwelling house was merged with the income of a taxpayer from other sources, tended to force the owners to dispose of their landed properties in order to meet the tax due. The former Parliament therefore decided to encourage the owning and retention of modern dwelling houses by residents of the Federal territory, by means of relief from tax in respect

of the rental income received in the early years of the erection of the dwelling houses. Hence the 1963 Act.

In practice, however, the 1963 Act was found to be defective in certain respects, not the least of which was that it was on the whole so involved as regards the wording and the arrangement of paragraphs, that neither the taxpayers for whose benefit it was enacted nor even their legal personal representatives could easily understand its provisions. The purpose of the Act was thus almost defeated, in that very few people took advantage of the income tax relief granted.

As any attempt to rectify the defects in the 1963 Act by effecting the numerous consequential amendments in the body of the Act would only make confusion more confounded, it was decided to re-draft the entire legislation in clearer language while at the same time remedying the defects in the old Act. The Bill before this honourable House achieves both objectives. It is entirely non-controversial, as the ultimate result of the relief which it grants will be to encourage the speedier development of this capital city of Lagos.

In the Lower House some Members expressed fears about the possible abuse of the provisions of the Act by unscrupulous taxpayers who might inflate the cost of their buildings in order to obtain more relief than they would normally be entitled to.

I can assure Senators that this possibility will be well taken care of by the Federal Board of Inland Revenue, to ensure that the true cost of erecting any qualifying building is not inflated to the detriment of the revenue.

I beg to move.

**Minister of State** (Senator Alhaji Nuhu Bamali) : I beg to second.

**Senator J. K. Nzerem** : I think by the apparent concurrence of the Senate, one can conclude that this Bill is welcome—being non-controversial. But it looks to me that the time has come when we should have a unified income tax law in this country. By consultation with the regional Finance Ministers, it should be possible to evolve a system of income tax that would be applicable throughout the Republic. In some parts of the country very little relief, if any at all, is given to income taxpayers. They say, "What is sauce for the goose should be sauce for the gander" ; so, if



[SENATOR NZEREM]

these reliefs are applicable only to the taxpayers of the Federal territory, then they are being given preferential treatment.

I think the Government should try, by consulting the Regional Governments, to evolve a system that will be universally applied. No one can quarrel with any relief given to taxpayers. The Minister who has introduced the Bill has told us quite clearly its object and I, in particular, am in agreement with all that he has said.

I beg to support.

**Senator (Mrs) B. U. Kerry :** I thank you, Mr President, for giving me the opportunity to contribute my little idea to this debate. I also thank the Minister of Finance for making the Income Tax (Rents) Act, 1963, clearer to the public.

But much as I would like tax relief to be given to land-owners in the Federal territory, may I say that this facility should also be extended to those in the Regions.

The Bill is welcome, and I would appeal to the Minister to consult his counterparts in the Regions for a similar provision to be introduced in the Regions. I should also like the Minister to consider the poor people who have no landed property. A means should be found whereby they can get some kind of relief too, so that we do not have to rob Peter in order to pay Paul.

I beg to support.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read a Second time : immediately considered in Committee ; reported, without Amendment ; read the Third time and passed.*

POLICE (NORTHERN NIGERIA APPLICATION) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**Minister of State** (Senator Chief J. I. G. Onyia) : I beg to move the Second Reading of the Bill.

**The Minister of Education** (Mr R. O. A. Akinjide) : I beg to second.

**Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu :** All we have read on the Order Paper about this Bill is "Police (Northern Nigeria Application) Bill—Second Reading (The Prime Minister)." We were hoping to hear what this application is all about but no explanation was given to us during the introduction of the Bill.

At any rate, I shall now seize this opportunity to say something about the Police. The role which the Nigeria Police played during the last Federal elections was a very commendable one.

**The President :** The introduction which the Senator wanted is—A Bill for an Act to exclude the operation in Northern Nigeria of sundry references to assemblies and processions in the Police Act.

**Senator Chief Acholonu :** I would like to continue to talk about the good services rendered by the Nigeria Police during the last general elections. In my humble way I shall ask the President, the Senate in general, the Prime Minister and the Minister concerned and everybody else in Nigeria to commend the Police for their good services in maintaining peace and order during the last Federal elections. They should also be praised for the efficient way they are checking night marauders.

During the last Federal elections, as was evidenced by radio and newspaper reports, the politicians were using the Police as an instrument to punish their political opponents. Even the politicians tried to prevent them from doing their duties well, and yet the Police tried to maintain peace and order. Therefore, I am still asking the Government to commend them and give them every due respect and other provisions that will make them do their work honestly and without interference of any kind from the politicians.

With these remarks, I support the Bill.

**Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku :** It is a pity that the Ministerial Bench could not go far in introducing this very important Bill.

**Minister of State** (Senator Alhaji Nuhu Bamali) : The Ministerial Bench has really satisfied the House because the Bill has an introductory paragraph which states the object of the Bill. The object of the Bill is to stop duplication in Northern Nigeria. There is already a law operating in Northern Nigeria which sufficiently covers the requirements.

**Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku :** My very good Friend, the Minister of State (Senator Alhaji Nuhu Bamali) has tried to come to the rescue somehow, but he has got some little swimming to do.

As a matter of fact, he has covered one of the principal grounds I would like to know, and it is that already in the North they have what is called the Public Order Law. The question of assemblies, processions, and meetings in places which can be used by the public is covered by the main Act which we now seek to amend. The Amendment we now seek to introduce is to take away the Northern Region from the main Act, so that when this Amendment goes through now the Northern Region will not be covered by the Police on the question of either giving permission or something like that for processions, meetings and assemblies in places which can be used by the public. The penalty which the present law provides is imprisonment for twelve months for anybody who contravenes that law.

Unfortunately, I have not here before me a copy of the Public Order Law of the Northern Region so as to know what penalty it provides, and to know of what special advantage it is to the country for the Northern Region to be taken away from the operation of the main Act and for the Northern Region to have its own law. In that case, we are perhaps coming to a stage where we can all agree that every region can now enact its own law on the matter of these public meetings, assemblies and processions, and eventually clauses 26 to 30 of the main Act will be declared null and void because it will not affect any particular Region again.

I have no quarrel with that because as my very good Friend—

**Senator Alhaji Nuhu Bamali :** I think before the Senator can pass a sweeping judgment on the Northern Nigeria Public Order Law, he should read the Law and see what it contains. I can assure Senators that the penalty in that Law is less severe than the penalty in the main Act.

**Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku :** I am not condemning what the Northern Region has done and I want my Friend to understand me. But I am now coming to say that if we all find that everywhere there should be no meetings, no assemblies and people are being arrested and prosecuted for unlawful assemblies and we can come together, and enact one single law to operate in the whole country and later if we find that according to the regional idiosyncrasies of every part of Nigeria it may be necessary for every region to impose in its own law—

**Senator Chief Onyia :** On a point of order, I think the Senator is fully aware of the fact that law and order is on the Concurrent List and, therefore, each Region has the right of making its own law in connection with assemblies and processions.

**The President :** I think after all the Senators might have spoken, the Minister can make his statement.

**Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku :** What I am saying is that if it comes to that, we will welcome that because it is the people who wear the shoe that know where it pinches. If the Regions feel that perhaps the provision in the main Act for a penalty of one year is too severe, or not severe enough, or that the general provision that before people can hold meetings in certain places they must have to get a written permission duly endorsed by the Police is unworkable or too hard on the people, let each Region formulate its own law in respect of that matter because that matter of public meetings and unlawful assemblies is one of the matters which are boiling in Nigeria to-day. With the 'boys' in the Lower House, it is part of the weapons they use to fight themselves during elections. So, if each Region will now have its own law, I think, on my part, I welcome it, and not that I am opposed to it.

**Senator Alhaji Nuhu Bamali :** On a point of order, the good Senator is a very broad-minded person, but I do not see why he should dwell so much on Northern Nigeria when he knows very well that a similar law has already been passed in the East, West and in Lagos.

**Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku :** To the best of my knowledge, I know we have the Public Order Law in Lagos under the main Act. The restriction of public meetings imposed in Lagos is under the main Act. What I am now saying is that immediately we pass this, the Northern Region ceases to come under the main Act in respect of public meetings and unlawful assemblies. That is what I am saying. It is not that I am opposed to it; I like it because the Regions are better able to take care of themselves in matters of this nature.

I am only commending this Bill to the other Regions where, at the moment, it is not in existence, so that if the Eastern Region so desire, let them have a Bill like this and take care of public meetings by themselves. If they, in the Eastern Region like, they can say

**SENATOR CHIEF FAGBENRO-BEYIOKU**

that anybody who contravenes this law should go to prison for twelve years, if they feel that by so doing they will be able to maintain law and order. Let the Western Region do the same, and let the Mid-Western Region follow suit.

If they feel that there should be nothing like unlawful assembly, anybody can go to any part of the regions, hold his meeting undisturbed, and if such a person is arrested, the policeman who arrests him should be prosecuted. If this is what they feel is right for them, let them have it so. If they are convinced that this is the best way by which they can maintain law and order in their various Regions, let them adopt this system.

I am not opposed to this Bill. I like it. What I am only saying is that it may be a Bill from which other Regions will take their queue.

I beg to support.

**Senator A. E. Ukattah :** In saying a few words on this Bill, I would like to advise our Ministers to be patient when Senators are speaking. When Senators must have finished giving their views on particular subjects, then they can give answers to whatever comments Senators might have made during their speeches. Ministers should not keep rising to make points of Order that are actually no points of Order, just to indicate that they are not happy with what is being said. We are here to give our views. We are not here for any particular region or any particular individual. Our Ministers should therefore be patient with us. We do not like the idea of their jumping up to interrupt us.

Of course, this is your business, Mr President but I am only saying that our Ministers should not be interrupting us so often.

**Minister of State (Senator Alhaji Nuhu Bamali) :** But a Minister has the right to talk in the Senate.

**Senator Ukattah :** I would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate the Federal Government for providing new pairs of trousers for the Nigeria Police. When I travelled to Ghana sometime ago, I saw their police ; they were wearing trousers. I thought that our own police here should also wear trousers, and now they are wearing trousers.

It would however appear to me that the trousers are out of tune with the shirts. I know really that tastes differ, but from my own aesthetic taste, I think the trousers are completely out of tune with the shirt. I do not know whether there is any plan to harmonise the two. After all, this is supposed to be a uniform, and until the shirts are changed to match the trousers I shall still feel that something is yet to be done. I am not particular about any colour but the shirt should be changed and a shirt of a different colour which would match the colour of the trousers should be chosen. It may even be the colour of the trousers.

**Senator Zanna Medalla Sheriff :** Much as Senator Ukattah would not like to be interrupted—

**The President :** That is not a point of order.

**Senator Ukattah :** Mr President, I do not mind being interrupted by any Senator. What I do not like is a Minister interrupting when we are making our contributions to debates. Let anybody who is not a Minister interrupt as much as he likes.

I would like to add that it was here in Lagos that I first saw the policemen wearing trousers. At home in Umuahia, I did not see any police officer wearing trousers. I do not know whether this new arrangement has been made for the policemen of Lagos alone or whether there is any intention to extend this gesture to the Regions.

**Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku :** On a point of order, Lagos first, and I think Senator Ukattah realises that.

**The President :** Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku is raising a point of priority and not a point of order.

**Senator Ukattah :** It is a selfish man who divides and at the same time takes first, so Lagos is selfish.

I would like to know whether there is any plan to ensure that police officers everywhere all over the Federation, wear the new dress. That is just the little I would like to say.

**Senator Chief R. A. Umoh :** I rise to support this Bill. In doing so, I would like to make a few remarks. My views are quite different from what other Senators have been saying.

I am of the opinion that as far as the main Act of this Bill was enacted by the Federal Government to operate throughout the whole Federation, if the need to pass this new law is to avoid duplication, I would like to know which one came first. Was it the law of the Federal Government in respect of the whole Federation or was it the law of Northern Nigeria which covers only the Northern Region? If it was that of the Federal Government that came last, I would say that it would be right for us to do what we are now doing. But if the Federal Government's law was there before that of Northern Nigeria came into being, I think that of Northern Nigeria should be deleted so as to allow the same type of law to operate in the whole country.

If each Region would like to pursue a policy of scrapping any law that it feels is too hard on its people and then seeking the convenience of its citizens by creating new laws in order to benumb or delete completely the power that should have been in the control of the Federal Government, a time will come when the Federal Government will be left with no power at all.

We are quite aware that each Region is autonomous in certain respects, but I think in matters like the Police which belong specifically to the Federal Government, the power to exercise effective control over such a body all over the country should be left to the Federal Government. As Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku has already pointed out, this might mean that all other Regions would have to evolve laws similar to the one we are now considering so as to destroy the provisions of the main Act and enable them to have their own separate laws to exercise complete control over their respective Regions in such a way that the Federal Government Police might at last have no power at all after they must have created their own Native Authority Police Force.

So, I really feel that if it was the Federal Government that first enacted its law to operate in the whole country and that the Northern Regional law came after that of the Federal Government, the law of the Federal Government should stand and the Regions should observe such a law and honour the powers of the Federal Government Police. Otherwise, in due course, what we call the Native Authority Police—and this is applicable not only to the

Northern Regional Native Authority Police but also to other Native Authority Police elsewhere—in the different Regions, may come to have more powers than the Nigerian Police Force, and it would be only here, in the Federal territory, that the Nigerian Police would be respected.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief J. O. Ngiangia :** I rise to support this Bill, but in doing so I have some observations to make. It appears to me that the Minister proposing this Bill has not given us sufficient premises to understand the Bill.

**The President :** I have allowed this for obvious reasons. Senators ought to have some commonsense over this issue. We have new Ministers who have not been baptised into the abracadabra of parliamentary procedure in this kind of thing. That is why we allow it. Otherwise, I would not have allowed this in the Senate.

**Senator Chief Ngiangia :** When a law is going to be made, first of all we have to think of the evil that law is going to prevent or the good it is going to do. We do not just rise up to make laws.

Concerning this law, we have heard that a Regional law of the same provisions is running concurrently with the Federal law. I would wish to know the provisions of the Regional law and the provisions of the Federal law and how they run at variance, and for this variance we would like to remove one and let the other operate. This we have not been told.

I would also like to know, while these two types of law are running concurrently in the Regions, how the law courts are applying them and how difficult the law courts are finding it to administer them and would therefore like to remove one.

Senators are trying to point out all these things because we are all saying that we want unity in Nigeria. I do not think that there is any organ in the machinery of administration that is stronger than law to bring about unity. And if there is a law running concurrently in all the Regions, why should we stop it in one Region? Does that make for our unity? It does not.

[SENA OR CHIEF NGIANGIA]

I know that when any Bill has been passed in the Lower House it will be passed here automatically. But personally, I oppose this Bill. If a federal law is running throughout the federation, then we should allow it to continue to run. This is an important aspect of our unity.

**Senator Abdullahi Lamurde :** I rise to support this Bill, which is very important and timely. This Bill is very important to the North because everybody knows that the North is a very vast area. There is at present a lot of duplication which has been caused by the present law.

What obtains now is that in one area, a person can go to the Nigeria Police and obtain a permit to hold a meeting in a particular place on a particular day, and another person in the same area can go to the Native Authority Police and obtain another permit to hold yet another meeting in that same place on the same day. These two people often clash on the scene, and this brings a lot of complication. And we all know how difficult it will be for the Nigeria Police or the Native Authority Police to withdraw one of the permits.

If this Bill is passed, it will regulate this and bring this issue and other allied matters under the control of the Regional Government. This, in turn, will remove the present hardship being experienced by politicians.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief S. O. Longe :** This Bill is a welcome one and I ask this House to pass it. Those of us who are in the regions know the difficulty we experience between the two police forces, namely the Nigeria Police and the Native Authority or Local Government Police. Unless this power to allow or disallow meetings, is given to a particular authority in a particular area, I think it will continue to be difficult for people to know the correct authority to approach.

I think this is what the Northern Government is seeking to do, to protect the people. I wish the other regions would do the same.

I beg to support.

**Senator Rev. A. M. Olaleye :** I rise to support the Bill, the purpose of which, as explained to us, is to cater for the harmony

and unity of the Northern Region. Each region is autonomous and nothing prevents the other regions of the Federation, when the time comes, from doing the same thing.

The passage of this Bill will reduce the duplication which exists at the present time. When people are in trouble it will enable them to know the correct authority to approach for help. The Local Government or Native authority Police understands the situation better. They will be able to maintain peace and harmony.

I beg to support.

**Minister of State (Senator Chief J. I. G Onyia) :** I want to dispel some illusions on this Bill. Those who have read the *Explanatory Memorandum* on the Bill will see that all that we seek in this Bill is to make sections 27 to 30 of the Police Act (Chapter 154 of the Laws of the Federation and Lagos of 195-) not to apply to the Northern Region.

It may be that some Senators do not know that these sections have been abrogated in the Western Region, the Mid-Western Region, the Federal Territory of Lagos and in the Eastern Region—

**Senator A. E. Ukattah :** We have no Native Authority or Local Government Police in the Eastern Region.

**Senator Chief Onyia :** We are not talking about Nigeria Police or Local Government Police here. We are discussing Public Order Law, and I say that this law can now be made by the Regional Government. To allow any other law in this connection to ride over and above that made by the Regional Governments will amount to duplication, and, as a Senator has said here, it will be placing a lot of difficulties on the members of the public and the politicians who would like to make use of these sections of the law.

With your permission, Mr President, I would like to quote the Attorney-General on this issue—

*But a careful comparison will show that what has in fact been done in the Northern Region Public Order (Amendment) Law of 1964, is no more and no less than what obtains in the Federal Territory now. I hope that it*

would not be invidious to say that the same has been done for the Western Region and the Mid-Western Region.

Then when one turns to the Laws of Eastern Nigeria, what does one find? It is this. In the Public Order Law of Eastern Nigeria, No. 17 of 1959, precisely the same provisions as are to be found in the Northern Region Law and in the Public Order (Lagos) Act, have been embodied there. As in the case of Northern Nigeria, in Eastern Nigeria the Minister responsible for law and order has been given the power to delegate some of his powers either to a public officer or to a Local Government Council.

Now, Sir, I wish also to correct certain impressions which my Friend Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku wanted to give this Senate. He was of the impression that if the Police arrested anybody under the old law, it would be wrong.

I wish to assure him, and the Senate, that the Police have the right and power of arresting and prosecuting anybody under the Regional Laws and under the Local Government or Native Authority Laws.

In respect of uniforms, I wish to inform the Senator who raised the issue that the distribution of uniforms normally starts from the headquarters in Lagos before it goes round the whole country.

I beg to move, That the Question be now put.

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

*Main Question put accordingly and agreed to.*

*Bill read a Second time; immediately considered in Committee; reported without Amendment; read the Third time and passeé.*

#### EXTERNAL LOANS (AMENDMENT) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**Minister of State** (Onyiba Aja Nwachuku):  
I rise to move—

That a Bill for an Act to amend the External Loans Act, 1962, be now read a Second time.

I would like to emphasize at the beginning of my speech that this is basically a non-controversial Bill.

At the inception of the first Six-Year National Development Plan in 1962, Parliament enacted the External Loans Act, 1962. The Act empowered the Federal Minister of Finance to borrow outside Nigeria up to three hundred million pounds to assist in financing projects in the current Six-Year Economic Development Programme of the Federal Government, and for on-lending to the Regional Governments for financing their own programmes approved by their Regional Legislatures. The Act provides that such loans may be raised in any manner authorised by the General Loan and Stock Act, or the Government Promissory Notes Act, 1960.

The General Loans and Stock Act was enacted as long ago as 1916, and it restricts the raising of loans by the issue of debentures or of stock to issues in the United Kingdom. In practice, therefore, loans can be raised under the authority of the External Loans Act, 1962, only by issue of debentures or stock in the United Kingdom, or by the issue of Government Promissory Notes. Thus, there is no authority to raise loans outside the United Kingdom where the issue of Promissory Notes is not appropriate.

It has been found in practice that this provision of the External Loans Act, is too restrictive. For example, it excludes loans from such sources as the World Bank and the International Development Association, and from the Governments of countries other than the United Kingdom, unless the arrangements for the loan provide for the issue of Promissory Notes.

As you know, we seek External Assistance wherever it can be found on satisfactory and acceptable terms, and we particularly look to the International Financial Institutions for further loans to assist in the execution of the Development Programme. It is therefore most necessary that statutory provision should be made for raising loans, within the general authority of the External Loans Act, from such sources.

This, then, is the object of the Bill now before the Senate. It seeks to remove the present restriction on the sources from which,

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and the manner in which, external loans can be raised. I wish to emphasize, however, that it does not entail any increase in the overall limit of external borrowing which Parliament has already prescribed in the External Loans Act of 1962.

I would also, before concluding my speech like to reassure the Senate that the existing criteria for selecting projects for external finance will continue to be applied. No project will be put forward for external financing, unless it is very high on the national scale of priorities for external finance. Besides, the economic and technical justification for such projects will continue to be thoroughly examined to ensure that no commitments are based on unsound propositions.

I have always been amused when people say that Nigeria has incurred external debt which is out of proportion to what she can adequately service. May I emphasize again that this is absolutely untrue. Two of the basic criteria usually used for determining the upper limits of the total external public debts of a country are firstly, that the economy of the recipient country should have the capacity to absorb the loan and secondly, that the total annual debt servicing obligations in foreign currency should not exceed about 10 per cent of its total annual export earnings. The total debt servicing obligations of Nigeria at present, is far below half of the accepted maximum, and I am fully convinced that these two criteria will be fully met within the maximum limit of three hundred million pounds set in the 1962 Act.

This is a non-controversial Bill, though an important one, for it will give greater flexibility in raising the external loans which are so necessary for many of the Development Plan Projects.

I beg to move.

**Minister of State** (Senator Alhaji Nuhu Bamali): I beg to second.

**Senator Chief Ezeogo Ugwuocha**: I support this Bill. The Minister has rightly said that this Bill is non-controversial, but I have a few remarks to make.

We all know that since we had our independence we have been borrowing money abroad but the money is distributed to the

North, West, Mid-West and Eastern Regions for their development programmes. The Government of each of these Regions always use the money to site industries in the big towns at the expense of the rural areas.

We all know very well that since we attained an independent status the common man in the rural areas has up till now not known that Nigeria is a Republic.

I would like the Government to try as much as possible to site industries in the rural areas. The Government should not focus its attention only to urban areas which have already been developed.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Senator H. O. Abaagu**: I am not against this Bill, but I want to be enlightened on a piece of information which I have just received and that is that some of these loans obtained from abroad have strings attached to them. It appears that certain firms, organisations or even foreign governments are pretending to be helping us whereas, in actual fact, they are not. That is to say that when they give us loans they dictate the terms.

For instance, if they gave one million pounds to us for the purpose of constructing a bridge, they would indicate their wish to construct the bridge themselves. They would also want to employ engineers for us. If that is the case, I do not think that there is any gain derived from borrowing money from someone, who will in the end take that money back from us through the back door.

I would like to suggest that if it becomes difficult to borrow money from outside Nigeria without strings attached to it, why can we not borrow from within Nigeria. There has been a very encouraging response to the forms of internal loans sponsored by the Minister of Finance. We should encourage these forms of loans instead of borrowing money from abroad with strings attached to them, thus making Nigeria a debtor nation.

I beg to support.

**Senator M. G. Ejaife**: We have been told before that "neither to borrow nor to lend for loan oft loses itself and friend." But I think that is not trite and useless where we are dealing with the development of the Country. The face of the country-side has been changing over the past few years. The

sky-line of our cities has been changing; our ports have been widened and plenty of berths have been provided. Schools have been built, universities have been springing up and all these various phases of development, I think owe something to the loans we have to take.

No country can hope to progress depending entirely on her own resources to-day; even the most civilised countries like the Great Britain, France *et cetera* are debtor countries. They borrowed money to develop their places. In the case of Great Britain, I think the loan which they have taken is such that they will never pay it fully, but still they are none the worse than they were. A country that is capable of borrowing money is a country that is credit worthy. I think it says a great deal for Nigeria in that she is still able to borrow.

However, we are happy that our Kainji dam project is in progress and we are also happy that our Bornu Railway extension has been completed. We still have other projects under the Six-Year Development Programme. Unless we are able to get loans, we shall not be able to execute these projects.

I think this Bill is a very welcome one because if there is any obstacle in the way of getting loans which will enable our Six-Year Development Programme to progress satisfactorily, then the Government cannot do better than to initiate a legislation with a view to removing this obstacle.

In the execution of the various development programmes it is very important that we should employ people who will not waste our time and in consequence, waste the money which we have borrowed. It is one thing to borrow and it is another thing to use that money satisfactorily and in accordance with plans.

I think it should be a good thing to effect one of the objectives of development—namely that during this process, we should be able to train our own people in technology so that the time will not be too far distant when the technical staff will not be preponderantly foreign. I think one of the advantages we have in development programmes is the opportunity to train our own indigenous sons and daughters to take over the technological aspects of the various projects.

The Bill as it stands is short and simple and I wholeheartedly support it.

**Senator A. O. Airewele** : I rise to support this Bill. The Bill is intended to get more money for more developments. As some of my Friends have said, money has been borrowed from abroad and we are still planning to get more. When this money is obtained, the Government should remember to distribute it evenly to all the Regions. The youngest Region—the Mid-Western Region, in particular should be remembered, when siting industries.

My advice to the Federal Government is that this money when borrowed should not be used anyhow. It is my feeling that every region should benefit from the loan. Whenever the Government intends to site industries, it should look very well and see to it that the industry is sited in a place where the money invested will be recoverable at no distant date.

I am saying this because I observed that the then Action Group Government of the Western Region made a mistake when they sited a rubber plantation at Ikenne, a place not conducive to rubber growing. If the rubber plantation had been sited at Benin which is a more productive area, a large income would have accrued to the Government of Western Region.

This is a timely advice to the Government and as such the Government should site industries in places where the money will be easily recovered. They should not merely site industries out of political consideration.

I beg to support.

**Minister of State (Onyiba Aja Nwachuku)** : I have listened with great interest to the various points raised by Senators. It has been said that industries are all sited in townships or in places already developed. The term "already developed" is relative. I do not know of any country in the world which is already or fully developed because if a place is developed fully, the next thing is that the place will begin to decline.

Our townships first of all should be more developed than the rural areas in that very many visitors—as Shakespeare put it: *The apparel oft proclaims the man*. If one goes to a



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place, the first place one will see will be the Regional Capital or the Federal Capital, and we do not like the rural areas to be more developed than these places.

The siting of industries is a very expensive proposition. It is unlike the Universal Primary Education schools that we want to have in every village. So that before we site an industry, we must first of all put that industry where it will possibly pay its way. We cannot just have it in a hidden place where we have first of all to build expensive roads or railways and so on.

Then there is the question of borrowing with strings attached. I am sure that the Senator who raised this point would not like to give a penny loan to anyone without attaching strings. If he does that, it becomes a grant. If one has to borrow, at least one has to pay interest on what one is borrowing. I do not know the type of strings that the Senator was talking about.

As I have explained while talking about the required maximum in enabling any country to have external borrowing, Nigeria has not even gone half way to that maximum. So that we are, should I say, capable of borrowing from outside because we are credit-worthy.

On the question of borrowing internally, as a Senator has said, we have Post Office Savings Certificates, Premium Bonds, and we have that type of borrowing which we call Government Stocks. These are the local loans we collect. But the response to these things has been very disappointing. Therefore, I would very much like Senators to keep to the very old but true adage that "example is better than precept". I hope that some of them will soon fill those forms. I would not mind distributing them immediately the Senate rises this morning in order to see how much they will contribute towards this internal loan which we are advocating.

If we do not respond to internal loans, it means that we will be compelled, if we are to carry out our economic programme, to go outside to look for money.

That is all I have to say about the points raised, Mr President.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read a Second time ; immediately considered in Committee ; reported, without Amendment ; read the Third time and passed.*

## ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn—(MINISTER OF STATE ALHAJI NUHU BAMALI).*

### SITTINGS OF THE SENATE

**Senator J. K. Nzerem :** Mr President, I would like to make a suggestion to the Government for their consideration for future meetings of the Senate. It is most unusual for us to remain here for more than a week during any Session of Parliament. I think if we begin on a Wednesday we generally finish, say, on a Monday, and there is no opportunity for Private Members' Day.

We have been told that we are adjourning on Monday. There are a number of Motions, which should be coming up on Tuesday. So I would like to suggest that in future we begin on Fridays so that we have the following days including Tuesday before we adjourn, in order to give Members an opportunity to present their Motions.

Now, we are being limited to one day for the debate on the Budget. This decision has been taken, unless they are going to reconsider it. Although we have limited powers in money Bills, in fact, that does not mean that the Government will not expect us to criticise their fiscal policy and give them suggestions which will guide them in their financial administration.

I would like the Government to take serious consideration of this suggestion of our beginning our sittings on Fridays so that we have Tuesdays during which Members' Motions can be taken. This, of course, does not mean that if we are having a Joint Sitting with the Lower House we should not have it on the usual days which are generally Wednesdays.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved :* That this House do now adjourn.

*Adjourned accordingly at eighteen minutes past ten o'clock.*

SENATE OF THE FEDERAL  
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Saturday, 1st May, 1965

The Senate met at 9 a.m.

## PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE OF  
SELECTION

**The President:** The Committee of Selection reports as follows:—

## STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE:

Senator Chief Asuquo Nyon  
Senator Alhaji Ahmed Metteden  
Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku  
Senator M. G. Ejaife

## HOUSE COMMITTEE:

Senator Chief J. O. Ngiangia  
Senator Zanna Medalla Sheriff  
Senator Chief S. Owoade  
Senator (Mrs) Bernice U. Kerry

## PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE:

Senator A. E. Ukattah  
Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba  
Senator H. O. Abaagu  
Senator T. A. Idowu  
Senator J. M. Egbuson  
Senator S. A. R. Anifowoshe

## BUSINESS STATEMENT

**The Minister of Health** (Senator Chief M. A. Majekodunmi): I wish to make a brief Business Statement of the Senate. All the Bills which have passed through the House of Representatives have now been presented to us, and if we finish what we have on the Order Paper to-day, then there will be no business from the Lower House to transact on Monday.

Tuesday is Private Members' day, and I think some Senators have filed some Motions which, probably, will come up for debate on that day. Then on Tuesday, we shall decide whether the Appropriation Bill would have passed the Lower House, in which case we shall take it and on Wednesday we conclude Business that day.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**The Minister of Aviation** (Dr Jaja Wachuku): Mr President, with your permission and the permission of the Senate, I would like to call the attention of this House to a very tendentious publication that was made by one of the National newspapers in Lagos—the *Daily Express*—reporting a simple answer to a simple supplementary question on Thursday.

With your permission, Mr President, I may read out the news item, and then hand the paper over to you, so that this House can take whatever steps it thinks necessary.

The banner headline is "Aviation Minister on Airways affairs." "Jaja raps K.O.'s scheme." "Operation Fantastic a big loss." I understand from information which my Parliamentary Secretary told me that when he was coming back from the Western Region, from Ikenne right up to Ikeja, he saw big posters bearing those captions.

Senators know that in newspaper business, if there is anything they consider important, they make big posters and paste them all over the whole place.

The insinuation is either that I was attacking my Colleague, or there was some kind of exchange of words, or something else in the Senate; and I think every Senator who was present on that day know clearly well that nothing of the sort happened.

A question of fact was asked about the Airways and I gave the fact known to me, and then a Supplementary Question was asked and I gave an answer to it—that that kind of operation was not known to make any profit. Inaugural flights never make any profit for any body. In fact, the airlines send out tickets to as many people as they can get and can afford. Nobody goes to make profit with inaugural flights anywhere in the world. But the impression this newspaper gives is that the contrary is the case.

I feel that I should draw the attention of this House to this publication.

**Senator A. E. Ukattah:** I must tell you, Mr President, that personally I was put off when I saw the publication in the paper. The impression given, as has just been said by the

[SENATOR UKATTAH]

Minister, is that the Ministers were quarrelling among themselves. If a Minister takes up duties from another Minister, and if there is anything discovered there which was done by his predecessor, I do not think it will be improper for any Minister to come and say what he has seen.

The Minister did not say exactly what was reported. In fact, I was startled, and we in the Senate take exception to that kind of distortion. The Press should help to see that there is peace in this country, and I do not think that they are doing that when they have to set heads together by reporting that Ministerial Colleagues are fighting and quarrelling over something that was actually meant primarily for publicity.

We, the Senators, do not like the way the news was reported; and I am saying—perhaps on behalf of the others who might not have the chance to say anything on this—that what was reported in the paper was not what the Minister said. The insinuation there is very disheartening and ought to be deplored.

**Senator Zanna Medalla Sheriff:** Much as we dislike such publications, we have to bear in mind that the press is an independent body; they only write headlines which to their own conscience and organisation, appear most important to them. I do not think that we in this House can initiate headlines for newspapers. What is not very important to us may be vitally important to the press, being an independent body.

In the first place, the Minister actually said that the business was a loss and even said that not only the "Operation Fantastic" but the whole Airways sustained a loss of about £50,000. The Minister made a passing remark about this "Operation Fantastic" which should not have been—

**Dr Wachuku:** May I correct the Senator that that is not correct. It was a Supplementary Question asking me how much profit the "Operation Fantastic" made, and I said it made none. And here with me is the publication saying that I "rapped KO" and that the cheme was a great loss.

**Senator Zanna Medalla Sheriff:** The paper was a bit out of order and the statement was highly exaggerated. At the same time,

they still maintain their prestige of being an independent press. To them what is important—

**The President:** The Senator should understand the question in point. Nobody is questioning the independence of the press; the Minister would not come here to question the independence of the press. He was saying that what they reported was in essence not what was said here. If the Senator here begins to support what was not said here, he had better be careful.

The question is whether the Minister said that the thing was a loss as, a report; it is not the question of whether it was reported or not. Was it the idea expressed to this House that it was a loss? We are the Upper House and we have a moral obligation to the nation.

**Senator Zanna Medalla Sheriff:** Thank you, Mr President, for that explanation. But what is the Minister quarrelling about now? That is what I would like to know.

**Dr Wachuku:** If I may refresh the memory of the Senator, I will draw his attention to the publication which says, "Jaja raps KO's scheme". I did not discuss the scheme; I did not attack it and I did not rap KO, if I should use the language. It also added: "Operation Fantastic a big loss." I never used the word "big loss".

The question was whether it made any profit and I said no. That was all. So, my quarrel is that this report in the way it is presented here to any outsider is distasteful. In fact, I have already had some difficulty with some people from outside who said that I had just got in there and started to attack the Minister of Trade, my predecessor in office. It does not represent me fairly to my fellow citizens.

**Senator Zanna Medalla Sheriff:** They might have done so in good faith. All that I am trying to point out is that the Minister was not in any way attacking his predecessor. Everybody accepts that. But when the newspapers think that this particular point should be their own headline, what have we to say?

**Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku:** On a point of order, I do feel that the right of

action in this matter should be left with the President. Standing Order 16 reads—

*By the indulgence of the Senate, and the leave of the, President, a Senator may make a personal explanation although there be no question before the Senate; but no controversial matter may be brought forward nor may debate arise upon the explanation—*

I feel the hon. Minister has made an explanation and our President knows the right course to take to correct the press, and it is left to him to decide now whether there should be a debate on the subject.

**The President :** My reason for listening is that I would like to know whether Senators would ordinarily confirm the statement of the Minister. I would like to know their impression on the matter and I am willing to hear a little more about that. From the Senator's point of view, this is not a point of explanation; the Minister is complaining of privilege.

**Senator M. G. Ejaife :** If I recollect precisely what the Minister said, he said that he has brought this matter to the Floor of the House with a view to seeing what action the Senate may care to take. If a Minister of State makes a statement in the House and the statement thereafter is twisted by the press, as it has been in this case, and he comes to the House to say so even without asking us to do so, I think it is our duty as fathers of the nation to condemn in no equivocal terms such action and to cause it to be placed on record so that the press may learn a lesson from it.

When the Newspaper Bill was being debated some time ago, a good many things were said. But something like this which deliberately sets out to set the head of one Minister against that of another is quite dangerous. We cannot both be blowing hot and cold, preaching the gospel of unity, peace and concord in this country and, on the other hand, be causing trouble. This seems to me a deliberate attempt to knock the heads of people together and to start a quarrel, and that is not a healthy thing for this nation. Without being lengthy on this matter, I suppose that if it were allowed I would have initiated a Motion—

**The President :** I am not going to allow that.

**Senator Ejaife :** I would like to place it on record that this action of the press is highly culpable in that the statement made here was quite plain: a Supplementary Question was asked and the Minister honestly said that it did not make a profit. This is not surprising. So, there can be no question of one Minister having bungled and therefore having been rapped by another Minister.

I would like to place it on record that we resent very much this kind of statement, and if the press have the conscience that they should have for the good harmony of this country at heart—I think they ought to apologise.

**Senator Chief S. O. Longe :** I was present here the day the Minister gave his reply to the supplementary question. I have read the newspaper in question and there is no doubt that the headline of the said newspaper greatly exaggerated the issue.

There was a Supplementary Question asking the Minister of Aviation what gain they made from the "Operation Fantastic," and he said that it was a loss. He did not rap the Minister of Trade; rather he added that even the whole Aviation Department everywhere is usually run at a loss and that here they made a loss of £50,000. In fact, he was not referring to the "Operation Fantastic"; he was talking of the Department as a whole, if I understood him well. But in the newspaper they said that he rapped the Minister of Trade (*Dr Mbaduwe*). This was not so. On that day, we all laughed here because we knew that such a corporation is always run at a loss.

I think we should not make so much ado about nothing. The Minister should leave the matter in the hands of the President who will take the proper step.

**The President :** I shall give a ruling on this matter on Monday

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

##### POOL BETTING TAX BILL 1965

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**Minister of State (Onyiba Aja Nwachuku) :** I beg to move—

That a Bill for an Act to extend the Pool Betting Tax Act 1962 to Northern and Eastern Nigeria; to provide for the cancellation of Pool Betting Licences of persons

[MINISTER OF STATE]

convicted of certain offences; and to amend Section 1 (2) of the said Act and Section 2 (2) of the Pool Betting Act 1963, be now read a Second time.

There are three principal objects of the Bill. The first is to extend the application of the Pool Betting Tax Act to Northern and Eastern Nigeria; the second is to provide for the forfeiture of a licence issued under the Pool Betting (Control) Act upon conviction for an offence under the Pool Betting Tax Act, and the third is to seize the present opportunity to make two small amendments which experience has shown to be necessary.

The Pool Betting Tax Act applies only to the Federal Territory of Lagos. Agreement has, however, been reached with the Governments of Northern and Eastern Nigeria for the Federal Government's jurisdiction in this matter to be exercised in the two Regions in addition to the Federal Territory. The two Regions have also passed enabling laws to that effect. The present Bill, therefore, is the final stage which will formally extend the Pool Betting Act to these Regions.

Furthermore, there is no provision in the law at present for a Pool Betting proprietor's licence to be forfeited in the event of a serious offence against the Pool Betting Tax Act. This state of affairs has encouraged fraud. I believe that it would be an encouragement to Pool Betting proprietors to comply with the requirements of the Pool Betting Tax Act if they knew that they were liable to have their licences cancelled on conviction for an offence under the Pool Betting Tax Act. This then is the object of Clause 2 of the Bill.

At the same time, the rate of tax applicable at present is 10 *per cent* of the monies staked. There is no doubt that the Pool Betting business can stand a higher rate of levy and in fact the Governments of the Western and Mid-Western Regions have already imposed a 20 *per cent* tax on Pool Betting in their Regions. There is therefore a case for the existing rate to be increased at least to 20 *per cent*. Unfortunately, the law as it stands only allows that a rate lower than 20 *per cent* should be charged.

It is therefore necessary that the Act should be amended so as to provide that the tax can be fixed at a rate not greater than 20 *per cent*. This is the aim behind Clause 3 of the Bill.

Finally, Clause 3 (2) corrects Section 2 (2) of the Pool Betting Act 1963, the effect of which was to repeal Section 4 of the Pool Betting (Control) Act, 1961, whereas the intention was to negative its operation in Northern and Eastern Nigeria only.

These then are the objects of the Bill. I beg to move.

**Minister of State** (Senator Chief J. I. G. Onyia): I beg to second.

**Senator E. I. Onwokae**: This is a Bill affecting Pool Betting in the Eastern and Northern Regions and in the Federal Territory of Lagos. The Federal Government ought to be congratulated for the measures taken so far in the Pool Betting business and especially for reducing the cost of Pool Betting Licences to £50 *per* premises. Before now, Pool Betting Licences were costing £10 *per* pool house, in which case, if a pool agent owned agency for say fifty or a hundred pool houses, he paid fifty or a hundred times £10.

It is therefore a bold attempt for the Government to make this business an enticing one for people who are interested in it. Nevertheless, the Senate will agree with me that in very many quarters Pool Betting business is a life business for some people and as such, for someone to commit an offence—of course, the nature of such offence is not stated here—which would warrant the seizure of his licence permanently from the Pool Betting business would be a terrible blow on that man.

I would like to give an example to illustrate my point. If a man is a gold-smith and he has a gold-smith's licence, but because this man has committed an offence his licence has to be withdrawn permanently after he has been convicted for the same offence, Senators would agree with me, is too terrible a blow to be dealt on the gold-smith. No one is interested in aiding or abetting any crime, but we must look seriously into this matter in as much as the serious offences which will warrant the seizure of licences for Pool Betting are not enumerated here.

The consequences would be very grave on any Pool Agent who, after holding a Pool Betting Licence, should have that licence seized

because he has committed an offence. This is what I feel that the Government should look into.

**Several Senators :** Is Senator Onewokae holding brief for Pool Agents ?

**Senator Onewokae :** I am not holding brief for Pool Agents.

**Senator M. B. Chukwubike :** Senator Onewokae is encouraging fraud.

**The President :** I believe that Senator Chukwubike just wants to interrupt Senator Onewokae. Would Senator Onewokae continue with his speech, please.

**Senator Onewokae :** I am not encouraging fraud, but Senators would agree with me that if anybody takes to any business, that business is his life, and for that person to be deprived of it can be very killing.

I would have liked the Government to have stated the nature of the offences for which the seizure of Pool Betting Licences can be made because I think that the Police can take advantage of this Bill and jump on some of these Pool Agents, threaten them and tell them that unless they do certain things they would be taken to court where their licences would be seized.

There is no doubt that there are some Pool Agents who are very dishonest and nobody quarrels with punishing such people. What I am saying is that some innocent people might be punished because of their ignorance or because the Police would like to make some gain out of them. I therefore feel that provision should have been made in this Bill to state, categorically, the nature of the serious offences for which a Pool Agent's Licence can be seized.

Finally, I agree that in the Eastern and Northern Regions a common law operates in connection with Pool Betting. It is only in the Western and Mid-Western Regions that we have a different law. But Senators would agree with me that the imposition of 20 per cent tax on proceeds from Pool Betting would tell very much on the dividends of the pool business.

**The President :** Is the Senator a pool agent ?

**Senator Onewokae :** I am not an agent, but I am sure that about 20 per cent of the Members of the Senate stake on pool betting.

Finally, I say that the 20 per cent tax should be reduced in order to enable the pool promoters to declare bigger dividends.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief P. C. Ndu :** I believe that this Bill is not controversial and therefore I go on to congratulate the Government for introducing it. Pool betting in this country is getting too much. I would like to suggest that the Government should introduce another measure to reduce it, and if possible tighten the conditions.

It will no doubt interest some Senators who do not take kindly to my suggestion to know that nowadays children are not studying their lessons at school any longer because they want to stake money on pool betting. Even the housewives do not use all the money given to them for feeding the family. As a result before the 25th of each month they go to their husbands to complain that the money has finished and ask for more money. Where has this money gone to ? They have used it all for playing pool.

I think that the tax imposed by the Government on pool betting is small. This pool is taking away the resources of this country. The companies organising pool betting have their interests outside the country and when they collect the money that was staked by citizens of Nigeria, they send it away from the country. I would even suggest that the tax should be increased by 50 per cent.

I beg to support.

**Senator M. G. Ejaife :** I think this Bill is welcome at least in one respect. It is one step further towards the unification of this Republic. What is applying in some parts of the country is now to apply to the other sections of the country.

Were it not that the Minister explained, I would have asked why the Mid-West is not affected by this Bill. But my main point is that I think I am primitive enough to doubt very much the wisdom of encouraging pool betting.

The last Senator who spoke made a point which I would like to add to. Pool betting is like endorsing or legalising some evils like illicit gin and things like that. Although man has in him the instinct to gamble—

**The President :** Order, order. I have noticed something which I want Senators to look into very seriously. This is the most important Legislative Chamber in Nigeria and all the Senators would have to honour themselves and this House, and the country, by studying their Standing Orders and also knowing the demeanour required of them in this House.

When a Senator is going out there is a way of doing so and that is by bowing to the Chair, and when a Senator is coming into the Chamber, the Senator also bows to the Chair. This is not done to honour the President as a person, but to honour the Senate and the State.

I have noticed that some Senators are becoming rather careless about this and if the practice continues, I will be constrained to withdraw my attention from those Senators, and when they stand up I will not recognise them.

**Senator Ejaife :** I agree that one of the advantages of establishing pool betting is to give employment to a large number of people. But it seems to me that this is for a particular type and class of people. Pool betting is a refined form of gambling, and this is not a good thing. It occupies the attention of too many people. We hardly go into any office and not find many people filling-in coupons.

Many people have been impoverished by indulging regularly in the practice of filling-in these coupons and staking money on them. A lot of people have found it difficult to pay their house rents because they have given out all their money week by week to the pool houses. Pool playing also takes up some large number of good talents which should have been utilised in doing some more productive work elsewhere.

Therefore, I question the morality of encouraging pool betting. But as I remarked before, I think man has an instinct for gambling. Perhaps the nation has found that it cannot stop this hence it has legalised it. If this is so, I do not blame the government for stepping up the tax imposed upon it. But, if it must exist, I think the 10 per cent rise, that is from 10 per cent to 20 per cent on the takings, is too steep. I should have suggested from 10 per cent to 15 per cent instead, so that if people have invested their money, the people

who have the shares should not expect too great a rise within a short time.

It is true that other Regions already have 20 per cent tax, but the rise from 10 per cent to 20 per cent is definitely too steep.

I beg to support.

**Senator A. O. Airewele :** This present Bill is welcome. If we should look at the evils of pool betting we would be inclined to say that the idleness, immorality and fraud. I was suprised to see that even where we live in Victoria Island, gambling is going on on a large scale. Very young boys, who should apply themselves to more productive jobs gather when we are all gone out, and begin to forecast that this is what to do to win and that if you do the opposite, you are bound to lose.

I do hope that in future, this law will be tightened so that it will discourage those who would like to take pool betting as life business.

I beg to support.

**Minister of State (Onyiba Aja Nwachuku) :** I wish to thank Senators for the very useful contributions they have made. I have taken note of some of the points they have made. But I wish to correct one impression made here that this Bill will be a blow, or a sort of punishment for the holder of a licence for pool betting. A wrong analogy was drawn when reference was made to goldsmiths. There is no licence which can be permanent if the holder does not honour it.

If a man is given a licence and he goes about practising fraud, it will be a dereliction of duty and, an abuse of a sacred duty too, to allow such a person to be at large. Something must be done as a deterrent so that honesty will always be regarded as the best policy. If a man collects people's money and makes away with it and he is not punished, I do not know where we are going.

The essence of this punishment is to allow or to enable the court to determine which case is serious. The operative word there is "serious", a "serious" offence. It may be a mild offence in which the man may be fined, warned or discharged and acquitted. When a case is serious, nobody should condone it and that is why we have this Amendment.

It is true that pool betting, to a great extent, has been a disadvantage; teachers also take part in pool betting and this has made the standard of education to degenerate. Teachers are busy either filling their coupons or preparing for the General Certificate of Education.

A Senator wondered why there should be pool betting at all. I think it is another way of arresting the colossal amount of money which goes out of Nigeria to other parts of the world where pool betting is in practice. In other words, the money circulates in Nigeria but the percentage which some people are advocating should be reduced is not higher than what obtains in other parts of the Federation. Twenty *per cent* is even a very moderate and modest figure. From experience, it might be possible to increase the percentage or reduce it; meanwhile, twenty *per cent* is not much.

The other points raised by Senators have been noted and I am happy that this Bill has been well accepted by Senators.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read a Second time; immediately considered in Committee; reported without Amendment; read the Third time and passed.*

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS  
(AMENDMENT) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**Minister of State** (Senator Chief J. I. G. Onyia): I rise to move—

That a Bill entitled the Children and Young Persons (Amendment) Bill be now read a Second time.

The object of this Bill is to amend certain sections of the Children and Young Persons Act, Cap. 32 of the Laws of Nigeria, 1958, with a view to providing for the security of children whose welfare has been threatened by contentions or quarrels between parents and for the maintenance of children in custody after the death of the persons liable to contribute towards their maintenance.

Under section 26 of the Children and Young Persons Act, a juvenile court may commit a child or young person brought before it to the care of any fit person, whether a relative or not, who is willing to do so.

There is, however, no provision to ensure the proper custody of a child or young person whose welfare has been endangered by quarrels between the parents. Many cases of this type have come to notice and it is now proposed to make necessary provisions to cover it.

The juvenile Court has power under section 28 of the Act to make an order binding any person named to make a contribution towards the maintenance of a child or young person committed to an approved institution or to the care of an individual. But the law has not provided for the continuance of this payment on the death of the person liable. The proposed Amendment will empower the juvenile court to order a fit person against whom the original order could have been made to continue this contribution.

The final object of this Amendment is to make it clear that the amount (not exceeding £4) payable under section 28 is in respect of each child under custody.

I beg to move.

**Minister of State** (Alhaji Abdul Razaq): I beg to second.

**Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku**: This is a welcomed Bill but I have some observations to make. The circumstances in this particular case do not relate to a child who is wayward or a child who is found among prostitutes or a child who is found apprenticed to robbers or rogues but to a child who is unfortunate in life; for instance, it may happen that for one reason or the other, his parents may have some quarrel between themselves and the quarrel may get to a parting point.

Many cases of this nature have been taken to the Welfare Department, but the Department has no legal right to enforce the placing of a child elsewhere. That being so, I feel that the case of a child who suffers as a result of a broken home should be viewed more critically than that of a child who is wayward; and nothing should come by way of expression, by way of word or by way of order as to give the impression that such children are being penalised.

In the first place, I would not like to use the word "committed" because it has a very wide meaning, but in law, its meaning may be



[SENATOR CHIEF FAGBENRO-BEYIOKU]

circumspective and exclusive. When in law we say that a child is "committed", it is just like being found guilty and committed somewhere. I should have preferred the relevant clause to read that the child should be placed in the care of somebody instead of saying that child should be committed. This is so, because if the child is taken to a juvenile court, that court will give an order committing the child to the care of somebody.

**The President :** That is an official language.

**Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku :** I know that it is an official language, but to an unfortunate child, it is a different thing. Believe me, Mr President, we all know what this country is.

The other point in this particular case is that everything should be viewed from our own background. Quarrel will come when it will come, if it can be settled, it will be settled, but if it cannot be settled, then it is goodbye. However, the average Nigerian family places much premium on their children and the average Nigerian family would not like their children to go to anywhere, even though there may be differences between them.

I am sure that Senators would not like the process of placing a child under the custody of someone to be a long one. As it is now, the process is too broad because one has to go to a juvenile court and the court will have to give orders to the effect that the child should be committed to the custody of whoever is willing to take care of the child.

But we should note that whoever is willing to take care of the child may not have enough affection for that child and the parents even though they have some sort of quarrel between them may be agreeable as to where they want their child to be. But if even the parents go to court and express their agreement as to where the child should be, the present law may not take notice of such an agreement unless they are lucky to find a judge or a magistrate who has some human feelings and who is always prepared to view matters from the Nigerian background.

Most of our judges and magistrates have been viewing things from the English background and not from the Nigerian background.

I feel that the child must be placed where he would be able to feel that he is still living amongst relatives and not like somebody committed to "Isheri" or any of the approved schools.

The other point is that the juvenile court may order that the child be placed under the supervision of a probate officer. I would not very much like that aspect of it, after all, the child was not found to be wayward or to have indulged in evil things. He was simply a child who, human nature being what it is, was placed where he found himself, so that the question of somebody, apart from the parents coming to exercise some sort of supervision, from time to time over him leaves the impression that such a child is a criminal convict. I am sorry to use these words—criminal convict.

The other point is that a man might have got three or more children by his wife before the separation. According to this Law the man has to pay a maximum of four pounds on a child.

If we take notice of the fact that the number of children involved may be about ten or twelve—no ceiling has been fixed on the maximum amount payable by the man—who will be called upon to contribute. Already the law provides that ten people could contribute; if the mother is well off, she may be called upon to contribute and also if the father is well off, he may be called upon to contribute. The law already provides to that. But now the amount is pretty well going to be above four pounds, it should be shifted to somebody else, otherwise, we all know that hardship may be brought on the father and if he is unable to pay the amount, he may be ordered to pay it to the court whereby his failure to pay will commit him to prison.

Therefore, I am appealing to the Minister to consider the possibility of suggesting a ceiling in respect of the amount payable by the father, since the idea has already been taken into consideration by this law. Nobody has any question about this matter other than the fact that we should ensure that children coming under this particular Amendment should be treated as children who are the

unfortunate victims of what we call human nature and not criminals who were picked from the street.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief A. Nyon :** I am sure that we appreciate the principle that motivates the Bill. One sign of the maturity of a nation is its awareness of the necessity for providing for the under-privileged needy members of the community.

The Minister of Labour and Social Welfare may be thinking of initiating a well planned social security system. In the past we had to rely more on the traditional African family system in which the family took care of the needy members and provided for them. But we all realise that the old pattern is gradually changing and more responsibility must be placed on the state.

This particular Bill makes reference to certain sections. We find that Section 28 (2) mentions those who are required to make contributions for the maintenance of these children. They include father or step father, mother or step mother or even somebody who happens to be cohabitating with the mother of the child. Now this matter shows that grave responsibility has been placed on the shoulders of the juvenile courts because if they make decisions which are not reasonable, we may find that it may in fact impose hardship in certain cases or may be found to be rather ineffective.

We also have the juveniles mentioned in Section 26 (1) who are covered really by the Bill. The whole idea is that legislation itself may not be enough. I actually think that something should be done to supplement legislation. It is a good thing that we have the National Council of Social Services with branches in different communities, but I think the co-operation of voluntary agencies should be sought, as well as the co-operation of social organisations, cultural organisations and even religious organisations because, in many cases, we need to educate and enlighten our people as to their responsibilities.

We find that, in fact, there may be cases where parents or guardians may have left sufficient money for the care of their children, but we are all aware of the enormous expenses often incurred by way of burials and funeral

rites. There are communities in which a lot of money is spent in order merely to indulge our people in urges of eating and drinking. We may find that a lot of this money could have been used for the care of the children.

If we have these voluntary organisations trying to undertake to educate the public—parents and guardians—as to their duties to their offsprings who are among the coming generation, it may do a lot to supplement whatever legislation provides.

I think the Bill itself is very welcome. I beg to support.

**Senator (Mrs) B. U. Kerry :** I rise to support the Bill. My object of supporting it is that so many children are suffering in this country to-day. This is because nobody cares for them.

Some men reject their wives because of continuous quarrels, and some women run away from their husbands because of the ill-treatment they receive or because their husbands are marrying so many wives with so many children. If such husbands cannot care for their children, the children are usually left under critical conditions.

I am not saying this to embarrass the people who have many wives with many children, but—

**The President :** I do not think you can embarrass them because there are more juvenile delinquents in Europe, America, Russia and the United Kingdom than there are in Nigeria where we have polygamy. Please carry on.

**Senator (Mrs) Kerry :** But I am saying this so that everybody may sew his coat according to his size. Some of our men like to marry many wives and have plenty of children, but with no money to care for them. As a result, their children become the unlucky ones in our society.

The country to-day is fast developing and we have to care for our children. When these children have nobody to care for them we should always remember that we are the people responsible. Many children are suffering in adoption custody to-day—the people adopting them do not care for them properly.

[SENATOR (MRS) KERRY]

For these reasons, I would suggest that the Government should build homes for these children and pay the amount suggested in the Bill into their fund.

With these remarks, I beg to support.

**Senator Chief (Mrs) Wuraola A. Esan :** To me this is a really welcome Bill. All it seeks to do is to make some people more responsible in their duties to their children, I do not know why anybody should have anything to say against it. After all, the increase in the rate to be paid by any parent towards the maintenance of the children he was not asked or forced to bring into the world does not amount to any hardship. If one knows that one cannot bear the responsibility for one's children, one should not bring them into the world. Nobody has even been accused of having no children and jailed for that reason. So there is no need for us to speak against this Bill.

I would like to say further that there are three kinds of negligence in this country to-day towards responsibility for our children. There are children just thrown away. If this is a sign of progress or civilization, then I think we should go and sit down, and if we feel like going backwards a bit, it will be good for the nation.

There are children just left in orphanages and they are not visited again, and even nobody goes back to pay anything towards their maintenance. And finally, there are children of people who have no broken homes but, as a Senator has said earlier, who are just neglected because their parents have no means of maintaining them.

These three sets of evil must be eradicated from our society if this nation is going to have security in the future. The nation's manpower will not be as progressive or developed as we would like if children are not well taken care of.

Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku said that these children are only unfortunate and that they are not criminals. I do agree with him. I have had the honour of serving on a panel of Juvenile Court Judges and I know some of the points raised by him are well taken care of, because no child is placed under anybody except that the Judges are satisfied that the

people responsible, say, the step-parents or members of his family agree that the child should be there. That is the first point.

The second one is that these children are only those known to the Government. What about those not known to the Government? This group of children too require the assistance of the Government. There are some who do not come from broken homes and who have nobody to care for them, and have no place to stay at all. These children roam about in the streets. What are we doing about enacting a law or trying to form more organisations, or supporting the social welfare family planning scheme so that parents could be enlightened? There are so many parents who, because a child has stolen bread in the morning, will say that they have nothing more to do with such a child, with the result that that child will go hungry for the whole day for stealing 3d bread in the morning.

Well, that child definitely has a grievance against the world, and the next thing he will do is to go and steal more. What are we going to do about such children, because they are more numerous than those from broken homes?

In Nigeria, as a Senator said, we love our children; we also have a wider family circle. But no child will suffer unnecessarily if a member of his family gives him sufficient food to eat. But, still, we are copying other people's innovations. We have parents neglecting their children, not because they want to, but because they think that the old custom can be mixed with the new custom—they treat their children in a strict manner.

Nowadays, when a child goes to school, he cannot be flogged by his teachers. Teachers are very lenient on children. Teachers are not harsh. A teacher dares not shout on a child. If he does, people will say that he is causing nervous breakdown on the children. These same children go back home to be rude to their parents. We must reconcile the training of children at school with their training at home. If we do this, then we shall be helping our Government.

The Bill brought before us is a welcome Bill. The Government should make more efforts to take care of those children who are neglected for reasons other than because of broken homes.

Another matter which I would like to touch on is the question of working women—women who work while their husbands are also working. We may not see the havoc in it now, but I am sure that one day we, or people who will be here after us, shall be called upon to consider another Bill in this respect. These people's children are neglected somehow. There is no use coming home to say, "Darling, do you want sausage or cheese? Darling do you want this fine dress? Darling, I can afford to buy you this pair of shoes. Do you want this or that?" They do not take care to ensure the moral security of their children. These women's children are neglected and are merely pampered with so many gifts. These are the children of the "been-tos"—those who have been abroad.

What about the children of the market women? These women remain in the markets from morning till night labouring for only a few pennies. I think that the Government should be able to do something about this class of children. The Government should either introduce a law to protect them or give more enlightenment to their parents in the form of adult education, or help the social welfare services in order to have family planning scheme. The Government may also get the schools to do much more than they are doing now by giving at least one very good meal and tea to the children before they go back home from their schools. This will help homes and families.

With these remarks, I beg to support.

**The President :** I commend the contribution of Senator Chief (Mrs) Wuraola Esan very much.

**Senator Chief J. M. Egbuson :** The President of this honourable Senate has rightly said that juvenile delinquency is more rampant in the so-called civilised countries than in this country. I think that the reason for it is not too far to find.

There is no doubt that child delinquency must be a problem in Lagos because Lagos is a civilised city. Senators in this House have hammered on this mistake which our Government is making by siting more and more industries in the big towns and cities. This

brings children into contact with the so-called civilisation. Here they learn so many wrong ideas and evils which they take back to the provinces and indoctrinate the hitherto good children. This has been going on for a long time now. I know that it is like the Biblical saying, "To him that hath shall be given; to him that hath not, even that which he has shall be taken away from him." That is exactly what is happening in this country. As a result, there is more and more influx of children into Lagos, Enugu, Ibadan and other places. Benin's case may not be a problem at the moment, but, no doubt, the time shall come when it will be and the Mid-Western Region will be affected very badly too.

The second point which I would like to raise, I think, concerns the Mid-West more. When the Mid-Western Region was created, civil servants and other workers of Mid-Western Region were taken away to the new Region. Up till now, the assets which belong to both the Mid-West and the West have not been—*(Interruptions)*

**Some Senators :** This is irrelevant. It is not in the Bill.

**Senator Chief Egbuson :** I am coming to the relevant point, Mr President. There are approved institutions for the keeping of delinquent children, and these institutions were for both the Mid-West and the West in the days gone by. But, since the Mid-West came into being, these institutions which were sited in the West have not been accessible to the children from the Mid-West. The children from the Mid-West are not allowed to go into them.

Section 4 states that this Act may be cited as the Children and Young Persons (Amendment) Act and shall apply to the Federal Territory only. Here, again, the Mid-Western Region is not included. So, I come back to this Biblical saying that—to him that has, more is given; he that has nothing, even the little he has is taken away from him and added on to the man who already has something.

We have heard on the Floor of this House that development should be widespread; it should be taken into the rural areas and not be centred in the already developed areas. Unless this is done, I think the question of delinquency will continue in greater force than it is now.

[SENATOR CHIEF EGBUSON]

I think it is a very wise thing if the institutions which we have in Isheri and the Roman Catholic Island of Topo are made available to the whole Federation and not only to the towns where they are built. After all, these institutions were built long before regionalisation came into the country. There is no reason why Nigerian children should be denied admission into any of these institutions. I made an inquiry sometime ago about the institution at Isheri. I was told that there was no machinery whereby a delinquent child in the Mid-Western Region could be admitted. I think that this is very, very fallacious.

Mr President, I beg to support.

**Senator Rev. A. M. Olaleye :** I rise to support this Bill because it seeks to protect our nation and our children. I would like to make a few observations however.

In the country to-day, broken homes are brought about because young people are not given the opportunity of having the right type of marriage counselling, with the result that our young people bring children into the world without knowing the responsibility they are getting into.

I know a young woman who evidently was not ready to have a child and was expecting a baby. When the baby arrived, she became embarrassed and had to run away leaving the baby behind. Of course, the man who was responsible for the baby was afraid to show up. As a result of that, the baby had to be taken to an orphanage.

Now, what I would like to suggest is that the Government should consider the advisability of having marriage counselling centres in some of our big towns so that our young people will have the right type of education about married life. It is a responsibility, and unless couples are guided by elderly people, by parents and by friends, when they enter into married life they become incompatibles and, as a result of that, the home is rendered useless to their children.

I support the Bill.

**Minister of State (Alhaji Abdul Razaq) :** I would like to make some short comments on what Senators have been saying about this Bill.

Firstly, Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku did not like the use of the word "committal" in the Bill. Well, I can assure him that the word "committal" is a mere legal language which is used in the Bill, and it has no reference whatsoever to criminal committal proceedings whereby a magistrate, after having a preliminary investigation, commits an accused person for trial in a High Court. It has no connotation similar to that at all, and it is not the intention of the Government that it should. The whole idea is that it is the only word which you can use appropriately in legislation to show that you put a child in the care of another person it has no criminal intention at all whatsoever.

The Senator also did make a comment upon the Juvenile Courts which will be exercising the rights being given by this Amendment to the Law. These magistrates or panel of magistrates, as everybody here knows very well, are all Nigerians; they come from Nigerian homes and, although they exercise laws that we pass here, their mind is always affected by their background—being fellow Nigerians. They take this into consideration in deciding how a child is to be treated and the order they are going to make under the law. The paramount thing which a panel in a Juvenile Court takes into consideration in the exercise of this law is, firstly, the benefit of the child itself. That is the paramount thing that the courts consider first; they do not even consider the interests of the parents. And it is in the consideration of this interest and welfare of the child that they decide on the appropriate person they will give the custody of the child to.

Therefore, I can assure Senators that the exercise of the power being conferred in this Bill will never result in any danger at all; and Senators can take it also that English common custom will not creep at all into the minds of the panel or in the working of the law.

Other Senators spoke also about some aspects of the Bill which I would like to comment upon. A Senator spoke about possible interference with the rights of parents over their children. It is not the intention of the Government, nor is it the intention of this Bill, to invade parental rights, as we understand them in law and in our native laws and customs.

The intention is to protect the child. Senators know too well, as experienced ladies and gentlemen, that when a marriage begins to crumble, the parents more or less have the interest of themselves at heart when they quarrel; they completely forget the children. The intention of the Government in bringing this Amendment is, therefore, to ensure that they may do whatever quarrel they want among themselves, but the children do not suffer. That is the reason why we bring this Bill.

Senator Chief Egbuson quoted a biblical saying to show that the Mid-West or other regions are being neglected. In other words, he is saying that we have limited the application of this Bill to Lagos only. The reason for this is obvious. It is that all Regional Governments have similar laws in operation which they themselves, in their own competence, have passed. There is the Young Persons and Children's Law of Northern Nigeria; there is the Young Persons and Children's Law of Eastern Nigeria, and there is the Young Persons and Children's Law of Western Nigeria which, if the Mid-West Legislature has not yet passed a separate one, is still applicable to the Mid-West, because it is one of the things that the Mid-West inherited from the former Western Nigeria.

As for the institutions, it is also within the competence of the Regional Governments to build them, and I can assure the Senator that if he looks into the current Estimates of the Mid-Western Government, he will see the way and manner in which the Mid-Western Government is taking care of this.

Lagos where this Bill applies has no other Legislature to take care of it than our own Legislature here, and that is why this Bill is being made applicable only to Lagos. We do not intend to invade the legal jurisdiction of the Regional Governments, and if Regional Governments have not specifically this provision that we have now, there are many reasons for it. It may well be that in the circumstances of their native laws, and customs obtaining in their Regions, they may not find it necessary to do so; it may well be that they find that the occasion is not yet ripe for them to do so; but I can assure Senators that some provisions, although not similar to the exact

words as are presented to you here, are in existence and operating in all Regions of Nigeria.

Senator Chief (Mrs) Wuraola Esan spoke about three evils of negligence. The Government is very mindful of all these three evils, and this is the basis of the main Act—the Young Persons and Children's Act—which we are amending. Reading through the whole law, she will see that all the efforts of the Government to see that children do not suffer have been taken care of.

The Senator also spoke about family planning scheme. She will understand that in this country family planning is practised on a voluntary basis by voluntary organisation. The Government is happy to say that we do support, by way of financial contribution, such organisations as can take up this type of thing, particularly the Nigerian Women Organisation which has a family planning department of its own. It is by this means that we think, at the moment, that the Government can take care of the family planning scheme which the Senator so much advocated.

As to children being neglected by women going to work, this is what one might call at this stage a necessary evil—It is an evil that accompanies industrialisation and urbanisation anywhere in the world.

As the President has rightly pointed out, we have more delinquent cases in Europe, America, Asia, than we can even have in Nigeria here. And once you begin to have industrialisation and also urbanisation of cities, these are attendant consequential evils which no Government, however well-intentioned, can properly guard against. But we will continue to try our best to see that no children are neglected.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read a Second time; immediately considered in Committee; reported, without Amendment; read the Third time and passed.*

ARMED FORCES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1965

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**Minister of State (Alhaji Ibrahim Tako Galadima):** I beg to move—

That a Bill for an Act to amend certain provisions of the Nigerian Army Act 1960, the Navy Act 1964 and the Air Force Act

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1964 expressed in terms inappropriate to monthly rates of pay, be now read a Second time.

At present, emoluments of Other Ranks in the Armed Forces are still described in terms of daily rates. This is a relic of the colonial era which arose when troops were not in regular employment.

As the salaries of all ranks of the Armed Forces are now expressed in annual rates and are paid monthly, there is an anomaly in continuing to describe forfeitures and deductions of pay on daily rate basis. It has therefore become necessary to amend the law, to reflect the present position and enable commanding officers to levy fines and dues to be deducted from emoluments of service personnel as a fractional part or percentage of a monthly salary.

The Bill seeks to amend the relevant sections of the Army, Navy and Air Force Acts to enable forfeitures, fines and deductions to be expressed as fractional parts or percentages of monthly salaries. It is non-controversial and should be supported by all sides of the Senate.

I beg to move.

**Minister of State** (Senator M. A. O. Olarewaju) : I beg to second.

**Senator M. B. Chukwubike** : This Bill is very progressive and its aim is very clear. I however have a point to make on the Bill, but before doing so, I crave your indulgence, Mr President, to pay a deserving tribute to our Attorney-General and Minister of Justice (*Dr Elias*) for the able way in which he has been drafting Government Bills and Motions. He assumes a calm disposition in presenting Bills, and all Senators who were in the old Senate would agree with me that the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice has a wonderful and convincing way of clearing all points usually raised by Senators when he presents his Bills. Suffice it to say that *Dr Elias* is a credit to this nation and I praise the Prime Minister for making him responsible for the great work in this all-important Ministry—the Ministry of Justice.

I here appeal to other members of the Cabinet to emulate the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice's calmness in their approach to duty, most especially when they come to the Senate—the House of Elders.

The strength of any nation depends largely on its army. A nation's fortification in the air, on the land and on the sea depends on the strength of the nation's army. It is therefore very gratifying that the Nigerian Army has been described as one of the best in the world. This, indeed, is a thing of joy, and here I salute our indigenous Officer Commanding the Nigerian Army, Major-General Aguiyi Ironsi.

The next point I would like to make is that if the Nigerian Army is to continue to be strong, we must not depend on imported arms and ammunition. If we have no raw materials for the manufacture of arms and ammunition in this country—

**Senator Alhaji Abdul Salami Yusifu** : On a point of order, Senator Chukwubike is not talking on the business before the Senate. In the first place the business before the Senate has nothing to do with the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice. Secondly, he was talking about the manufacture of arms and ammunitions in this country, a point which is not relevant to the Bill we are now considering.

**The President** : I think that the point Senator Alhaji Abdul Salami Yusifu is making concerns irrelevancy. He is quite correct in saying that Senator Chukwubike went out of the point.

**Senator Chukwubike** : What I am saying is that here in this country, in case of invasion we cannot wait for ships to arrive and bring us arms and ammunition nor can we resort to the age-old system of fighting wars with bows and arrows.

As I said earlier, however, the Bill is very progressive and I support it.

**Senator A. E. Ukattah** : I just wish to say a few words. The Bill before the Senate does not call for any debate and I would only like to say a few words of commendation about the Nigerian Army. I think that this is an opportunity for paying tribute to the Nigerian Army because, to my mind, the Nigerian Army has proved to be one of the most disciplined, most efficiently organised Army in the whole world, and this has been testified to by the fact that detachments of the Nigerian Army have served in the Congo and in East Africa. I think that this is really something that every one of us ought to be proud of.

The most enviable quality of the Nigerian Army is patriotism. What is at the moment, happening in many parts of the world justifies what I am saying. We have *coups* here and there, troubles are being stirred up here and there, by the army. But with this very great virtue of patriotism, the Nigerian Army is very dependable. Whatever we can do to encourage our soldiers in Nigeria ought to be done.

May I also say a few words of congratulations to the first indigenous Major-General of the Nigerian Army, Major-General Aguiyi Ironsi. There is no doubt that his elevation to his present position is very well merited, but he should not rest on his oars. He must know that inside and outside Nigeria there are eyes set on him and he would do well to maintain the efficiency that now exists in the Army. This is the only thing that can justify the good opinion which people have always had of him and which has led to his elevation.

With these few remarks, I beg to support the Bill

**Senator Alhaji Abdulsalami Yusufu :**

Contrary to what other Senators have said about this Bill, I would like to say that my congratulations should go to the Minister of Defence for presenting this Bill. Some Senators want to know what the contradiction is. I have used the word "contrary" because some Senators felt that the Minister of Justice should be congratulated while I hold the view that the Minister of Defence should be congratulated.

To remind, Senators would be interested to know that during the colonial days the ex-service men of whom I am one, suffered for nothing. This is a step forward in the right direction, and also an encouragement to our young boys who are now growing up. This will increase their interest in joining the Nigeria Army. We must understand that without the Army we are worthless. This is because when there is any territorial disagreement, we call on the Army to rescue us.

I beg to support.

**Minister of State (Alhaji Ibrahim Tako Galadima):** I am extremely happy that the role of the Armed Forces in keeping the peace is recognised by Senators. It is fitting that such appreciation be accorded to the Army

on behalf of the people of Nigeria by the Senate. Of course, the Armed Forces deserve all the praises that Senators are showering on them, having achieved a lot by the way they performed their duties both at home and abroad.

The factors that contributed to this creditable performance are many. But I can only tell Senators that their chief attributes are their skill in the handling of arms, their courage, discipline, impartiality and non-subjection to political indoctrination.

Senator Chukwubike congratulated the Attorney-General for this Bill, but I have to enlighten him by saying that the Minister of Defence was the initiator of all these Amendments and, therefore, it is only right for the Senator to praise him and not the Minister of Justice.

I can hear several Senators saying that the Minister of Justice drafted the Bill. I quite agree with this, but I think that the praise should go first to the initiator of the Bill before the man who drafted it.

The Senator also spoke about the manufacture of arms and ammunition. I would like to seize this opportunity to tell the Senate that we should not fear that we are not well armed. The ammunition factory in Kaduna has started producing arms, and everything we use there is obtained from Nigeria.

Another Senator—I think Senator Ukattah—talked about the discipline, patriotism and the loyalty of the Army. This has been achieved by a scheme in my Ministry which makes all sections of the country militarily conscious. How did we achieve this? We introduced a quota system in the Army, thus preventing the possible fear that the Army would sometime become unreliable. Every section of the country is represented in the Army, and I think this is a good system which will also ensure the security of the nation.

If any part of the country is not represented in the Army, we may harbour some fear that that particular section will begin to feel that it is being dominated. But now that the door is open and consideration is given to all the Regions of the Republic to ensure that there is no imbalance in the recruitment into the Army, this country's safety is assured. This is the



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scheme we have adopted in the Ministry of Defence and which has contributed a great deal towards removing all the fears about the Army rising up someday to stage anything.

Senator Alhaji Yusufu commended the role of the Minister of Defence. I should add here that a sharp spear needs no polishing. The Ministry of Defence is doing all it can to satisfy the wishes of the country in re-organising the Army for the security of the country. And having received such encouraging remarks, both from the Senate and from the House of Representatives, we will continue to do as much as lies within our power for the benefit of Nigeria.

Once more, I would like to express my gratitude to Senators for the contributions they have made during the debate on this Bill, and I assure them that my Ministry will continue to endeavour to improve the Armed Forces. In this respect, we very much require Senators' co-operation. In what way will they co-operate with us? We want them to tell their children that the Nigeria Army is not just

designed as a means of winning bread and butter. It is meant for people who will sacrifice their lives in order to save the lives of others. It is not for people who come in because they want glory and higher salaries *et cetera*. We need people who are prepared to sacrifice themselves for the security of the general public.

Thank you, Mr President.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read a Second time ; immediately considered in Committee ; reported, without Amendment ; read the Third time and passed.*

#### ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made and Question proposed, That the Senate do now adjourn until Tuesday next—*  
(MINISTER OF STATE MR M. A. O. OLAREWAJU).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved ; That the Senate do now adjourn until Tuesday next.*

*Adjourned accordingly at eight minutes to eleven o'clock.*

SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC  
OF NIGERIA

Tuesday, 4th May, 1965

The Senate met at 10 a.m.

## PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

## OATHS

Oath of Allegiance was administered to the following new Member—

Prince Adeleke Adedoyin (Minister of Labour).

## DEATH OF A MEMBER

**The President :** I regret to have to inform the Senate of the death of the Minister of Defence, Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu, and I desire on behalf of the Senate to express the sense of loss we have sustained and our sympathy with the relatives of the hon. Minister.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION :  
PRESIDENT'S RULING

**The President :** On Saturday last, I promised to give my ruling on Monday on the matter raised by the Minister of Aviation. It was then not known that the Senate would not sit on that day.

Now my ruling on the matter is that the Senators themselves and also the Members of the Press are aware that the statement made outside in that paper was wrong and incorrect, but I intend not to administer any punishment.

I have to warn the Press and I expect them to do the best in their ability to create conditions of unity in the country instead of disunity. I trust that the Editor and the Proprietors of that Press are acting in good faith. They have made a mistake and I expect their apologies to this House and also to the Ministry concerned. If anything like this repeats itself, the Senate will be constrained to take action.

## BUSINESS STATEMENT

**Minister of State (Senator Alhaji Nuhu Bamali) :** The Business Statement to-day is that this House will, after disposing of the Questions, make obituary speeches on the death of the late Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu, Federal Minister of Defence. After that the Senate will adjourn until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS  
FINANCE

## External Loans

**O.68. Senator Chief M. B. Chukwubike** asked the Minister of Finance, what is the total amount of loans received by the Federal Government from foreign countries; and how much does it owe each of them.

**Minister of State (Onyiba Aja Nwachuku) :** The total amount of loans received by the Federal Government and its Statutory Corporations from foreign countries, including the World Bank, is £47,429,358 of which £40,417,519 was outstanding at 31st March, 1965.

Details are as follows :

Source	Amount Borrowed to 31-3-65	Amount Outstanding at 31-3-65
United Kingdom	23,591,230	18,605,420
U.S.A. ..	1,438,428	1,04,741
Israel ..	2,620,850	1,689,579
Italy ..	1,362,882	1,362,882
World Bank	18,415,968	17,354,897
<b>Total</b>	<b>47,429,378</b>	<b>40,417,519</b>

The figures I have just quoted include loans which have been subsequently on-lent to the Regional Governments.

## Import Duty on Drugs

**O.69. Senator Chief M. B. Chukwubike** asked the Minister of Finance, whether he will remove the duty imposed on imported drugs in order to make drugs cheaply available to poor patients.

**Onyiba Aja Nwachuku :** Most of the established drugs of proved medical value are already exempt from import duty. The difficulty is to draw a satisfactory distinction

[ONYIBA NWACHUKU]

between such drugs and the multitude of so-called patent medicines, for which exemption cannot be justified. The matter is currently under review to see whether the existing concession can be extended without incurring too great a risk of its being abused.

### LABOUR

#### National Provident Fund

**O.70. Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku** asked the Minister of Labour, if he is aware that a great number of the contributors to the National Provident Fund are still not satisfied with its operation and the conditions under which re-payment can be made to them ; and whether he will re-open immediate discussion with the trade unions on the subject.

**The Minister of Labour** (Prince A. Adedoyin): I am aware of complaints by workers about certain administrative aspects of the National Provident Fund, especially in respect of payment of benefits. Everything possible is being done to simplify the procedure for the payment of benefits, particularly survivor's benefits which, as provided under the National Provident Act, are paid through the Administrator-General. It must, however, be pointed out that the Fund is barely three years old and, in dealing with its inevitable teething troubles, there is need for patience and understanding by all concerned. There is, as provided under the Act, an Advisory Council, comprising representatives of the Governments, Employers and Workers, which advises me on the operation of the Fund. The question of immediate re-opening of discussion with trade unions on the subject does not therefore arise.

#### Factories Act

**O.71. Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku** asked the Minister of Labour, how many factories were penalised in 1964 for offences connected with inspection provided for by the Factories Act ; and whether he will state how far the provisions of the Act are observed by employers of labour.

**Prince Adedoyin** : No factory owner was penalised in 1964 for offences connected with the factories. Inspection reports show a degree of observance of the provisions of the Act. It is not the policy of my Ministry to

undertake prosecution for every breach of the provisions of the Act when the employers concerned can be persuaded to do the right thing. At this stage of industrial development in Nigeria, what is needed most is to educate employers to appreciate the value of industrial safety. A great deal is being done in this respect through the National Industrial Safety Council.

### LAGOS AFFAIRS

#### Market and Hawking in Lagos

**O.72. Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku** asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, whether he will advise the Lagos City Council to regulate the system of marketing and hawking in Lagos.

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs** (Alhaji Musa Yar' Adua) : There are already bye-laws controlling markets and hawking in Lagos. The Market Bye-Laws can be found in Volume 8 of the Laws of Nigeria 1958, Cap. 93 pages 1061 to 1069. With regard to hawking or street trading, section 258 of the Lagos Local Government Bye-laws prohibits hawking in all streets listed under that section in pages 1043 and 1047 of Volume 8 of the Laws of the Federation 1958, Cap. 93. It is therefore my view that the present bye-laws provide sufficient safeguards both for markets and hawking or street trading in Lagos.

**Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku** : I would like to know whether the hon. Minister of Lagos Affairs is aware of the fact that the indiscriminate use of the existing laws and the political significance connected with them in their application are causing the poor traders and market women of Lagos a great inconvenience and that they are looking forward to the Minister for some sort of amelioration.

**Alhaji Musa Yar'Adua** : I am not aware of this fact, but if it is brought to my notice I will surely look into it and find out what the present position is about these laws.

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

#### DEATH OF MINISTER OF DEFENCE : OBITUARY SPEECHES

**Minister of State** (Senator Alhaji Nuhu Bamali) : It is with the heaviest of hearts that I now rise to pay the last tribute to that illustrious son of Nigeria who passed away three days ago.

The death of Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu, former Minister of Defence, came to everyone of the fifty-five million people of this country as a very great shock. Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu lived his fifty-five years of life and passed away as a very devoted muslim and a very conscientious and true Nigerian. The memory of this man will remain green in the minds of many thousands of people in this country.

I could remember how I travelled on the same plane with Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu exactly eleven days ago from Kaduna to Lagos. He was very well on the plane. He was all the way from Kaduna to Lagos either chatting with me, cracking jokes or praying, and when we landed at the Lagos Airports he drove away to his house in his usual jovial way, laughing with everybody, not knowing that two hours after our landing he would be struck by heart stroke which eventually led to his death eight days later.

I think words have not been left to say more about this great man and all the words that there are in the English dictionary have been used by eminent Nigerians like you, Mr President, and others in the tribute to this man. Those of us who had the privilege of working very closely with Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu, especially in the Cabinet, know what great loss Nigerian unity has sustained. On many occasions this God-fearing man, whose first thought was Nigerian unity, did everything possible to avert a catastrophe which might break this country to pieces.

But I think one of his greatest qualities was his unflinching belief in the ability and capacity of the Nigerian people. Alhaji Ribadu had no enemies, but if he had an enemy at all, the enemy was only a person who did not believe that a Nigerian could take efficient care of Nigerian affairs.

Mr President, Sir, glowing tributes have been paid to this man and I think all we can do now is to pray the Almighty God that his soul may rest in peace and that he may be rewarded for the excellent services which he rendered to this nation as well as to humanity. Amen.

Before I resume my seat, Mr President, I would humbly beg this House please to rise up

in silence for one minute in memory of the loss we have all sustained in this country.

*The Senate observed a minute's silence standing.*

**The Minister of Information** (Senator Chief Ayo Rosiji): Mr President, I beg to associate myself with the speech which has just been concluded by my Friend, the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Senator Alhaji Nuhu Bamali.

The death of Alhaji Ribadu, known to us as 'Power' in this Parliament, is a great blow to us all. Alhaji Ribadu was known as 'Power' not because of brutal force, not because he was Minister of Defence, but because there emanated from within Alhaji Ribadu an inner power before which rocks melted and before which fires were put out.

Alhaji Ribadu was a great Nigerian and, above all, a great humanist. When other people would go to extremes on any issue, he would offer solutions which would be a compromise that would be satisfactory to all sides. I think, Sir, that we who are left behind by Alhaji Ribadu should pray for ourselves. We should pray that we should have the type of satisfaction that Alhaji Ribadu, on his death bed, must have had.

He started with all our leaders the Constitutional Conferences that led to the independence of this nation. He was present at every conference starting from the 1950 Constitutional Conference in Ibadan. He was also present at the Conference of 1953 in London, the Conference of 1954 in Lagos and that of 1957 or 1958. He contributed very immensely to the achievement of independence by this nation, and I think that it must have been a matter for satisfaction for him until he died, not only after the achievement of independence by this country, but also after the achievement of Republican status.

Another thing which I think must have satisfied a deeply religious man like Alhaji Ribadu on his death bed was that he had just returned from the Holy Pilgrimage. I know that Alhaji Ribadu would not have liked to live a useless life. He would not have liked to live a life which would not be desired by his Maker. He went on Holy Pilgrimage, and soon after he returned he took ill and passed away. I

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have no doubt that he has now met his Maker with whom he made peace while he was on Holy Pilgrimage.

Mr President, I had the good luck to be at the funeral service of the late Alhaji Ribadu in Kaduna. The great respect which all Nigerians had for him was manifested in Kaduna. Kaduna, as you know very well, Sir, is a cosmopolitan city. All the various groups in the Northern Region, Eastern Region, Western Region and the Mid-Western Region live in Kaduna. I think that no greater tribute could have been paid to the memory of the late Alhaji Ribadu than by the presence at his funeral by people representing all the groups in the nation.

I had the good luck also to be present at his burial in Yola. Yola is not a big city. It is not a city like Lagos or Ibadan, but the whole people of Yola turned up at the burial of the late Alhaji Ribadu—and when I say the whole, I mean the whole people of Yola.

I listened when the last speaker said that Alhaji Ribadu had no enemies. If he wanted a confirmation, that confirmation was present in Yola and in Kaduna.

Mr President, many words would not bring back Alhaji Ribadu to us. But I think that the few which we have uttered here this morning will show in a small measure the affection which we had for Alhaji Ribadu. He will for ever live in our hearts. We pray for the forgiveness of all his sins like a human being, but above all, I think we need to pray for ourselves so that when the inevitable end comes, as it must do to all of us, we shall be as happy at our death as Alhaji Ribadu was.

**Minister of State** (Senator Chief J. I. G. Onyia): It is indeed with a heavy heart that I have risen to associate myself with the tributes paid to my very good Friend, Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu. The death of Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu is a calamity to the Federal Government in particular and to Nigeria in general.

Alhaji Ribadu was a large-hearted patriot, a friend, a mediator, a foremost statesman and a potential ambassador. Bodily, Alhaji Ribadu belonged to a political party but spiritually

and in action, he was what I would designate "a member of the whole Nigerian Party."

After the Government had accepted my Motion in this very House for the construction of a bridge across the River Niger from Asaba to Onitsha, Alhaji Ribadu in his jovial way rose and said, "Chief Onyia," and repeated it several times whenever we met, "you should confer a title on me on the day of opening of the bridge." It is a pity that he has not lived to see this bridge open.

The warm reception he accorded His Excellency, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, after the last London Constitutional Conference and his memorable speech on that day in praise of Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe for leading Nigeria to independence are still fresh in my mind. He gave honour to whom honour was due. The mystery of life is that mortal beings must answer the summons of the Grim Reaper at unpredictable dates contrary to man's proposals, otherwise, we would have wished Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu a longer lease of life? But it is all nothing but a wish which illustrates the saying "If wishes were horses, beggars would ride."

Let it be chronicled that Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu died in harness and that Nigeria has lost one of its ablest fathers and lost his elderly and soberly genuine advice. May the Almighty God condole those afflicted by the demise of the great man, Alhaji Ribadu. *Requiescat in pace.*

**Minister of State** (Senator M. A. O. Olarewaju): In adding my own quota of tribute, I would like to say that the death of the former Minister of Defence, Alhaji Ribadu is a real tragedy, an irreparable loss and a heavy blow to Nigeria as a country. Alhaji Ribadu as the Federal Minister of Defence, was a father of the Parliamentarians. He was always open-minded, straightforward and ever cheerful. As a citizen he was acceptable to all.

He always received people with open arms and was always ready to help. There is no doubt that the late Alhaji Ribadu was too young to die although he died for Nigeria. This makes me remember the proverb which says "a straight tree in the forest lives a shorter life than a crooked one". Mr President, the only thing which I would like to add is that his soul may rest in peace.

**Senator J. K. Nzerem :** I would like to associate myself with the feelings of sorrow and of loss expressed by the previous speakers. A great man—a great statesman has passed away and Nigeria is worse off by his demise.

Since last Sunday morning, we all have listened to a great many tributes paid to this very great man but I have yet to hear a greater tribute than that paid to the memory of Alhaji Ribadu by a common man whom I found in the street of Lagos. His tribute is this: "Oh, a good Minister has died; the big Minister who was never arrogant, the big Minister who welcomed even beggars with open arms".

It is not many people who can receive such a tribute from an ordinary man. It is a common saying that nothing evil should be said about the dead and so, when a man dies, we hear orations, we hear praises showered on him, both those that he deserved and those that he did not deserve. But in the case of the late Minister of Defence, here is a tribute which nobody can challenge—the tribute of an ordinary, under-dog. In Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu "there was no arrogance; there was no tribal discrimination; and all his actions transcended party politics." What greater tribute can be paid to a man?

Nigeria certainly mourns, and Nigeria is worse off by the death of this man. One can continue to talk about the good qualities of the late Minister, but is it necessary that we should continue to talk about them? I say this because it seems to me that the more we talk about his qualities, the greater will be our sense of loss.

I think I should end by saying that this House has lost a very able debater; and we can only hope that God will receive his soul. For I am sure he will find solace with his Creator.

We are told that, "As a man lives, so he dies; and as a tree falls, so it lies." Alhaji Ribadu had lived well and died well. We commend him to the Almighty God.

**Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku :** This is indeed a very sad occasion. The bell tolls and one by one man finds his way home. I will start by saying that cliché we all recite from time to time:

*Lives of great men all remind us we can make our lives sublime and departing leave behind us footprints on the sands of time—*

Alhaji Ribadu has left an indelible footprint on the sands or rocks of time. He was an ambassador of peace—"Let there be peace in our time, Oh Lord." That was his policy. Even though he is dead, yet he lives. Alhaji Ribadu is not gone. As Marcus Anthony said:

*The evil that men do lives after them and the good is oft interred with their bone—*

It is not the case with Alhaji Ribadu, "the good is not interred with the bone." For as long as Nigeria remains stable and united, Alhaji Ribadu lives. He was a man who combined dignity with humility, carried a commanding stature, and was every inch that stature.

Lagos knew him; he won the hearts and admiration of the people of Lagos so much that one of the highest titles of Lagos was conferred on him. This was done not because he was Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu, but because he was "Ribadu the good." The title conferred on him could only be conferred on princes—people who are members of the royal household in Lagos. But Lagos made him Chief Bariyun of Lagos—a chieftaincy conferred only on princes of the land.

What have we to say, fellow Senators, about the way he had cemented the nation? Crisis after crisis, and moments of anxieties after every election we have had to face, but there was a silent voice, there was a quiet, guiding hand which always brought peace to us. And that quiet, guiding hand was the hand of Alhaji Ribadu—"Let it be done this way and there will be peace." Each time it went that way, and there was peace.

He is not gone, for as long as parliamentary democracy thrives in Nigeria, Alhaji Ribadu lives. We are proud of him. The late Minister was not just a Northerner, he was more than that—a Nigerian. He bore the name Nigerian.

He handled our Armed Forces admirably. The only thing we have got to pray for is that God should give us "the man", not just "a man"—"the man" who will take Alhaji Ribadu's place. As for him he has got the

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greatest satisfaction; for what greater satisfaction can a man have than laying down his life in the service of his God?

As His Excellency, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, said the other time, "Africa kills her children." They are over-worked; heart trouble sets in, everything sets in; they are weakened, and have no time to rest. In their minds, the interest of their respective nations comes first.

Although he has gone, it is not by paying lip-service can we remember Alhaji Ribadu alone; all Members of Parliament should rise up as one *bloc* and build a befitting memorial as we find in the United States, in the United Kingdom, and all over Europe. There should be a marble figure of the late Minister of Defence in the facade of this Parliament, and let the people come and say, "Here was Ribadu the good." Mr President, that should be our immediate task. All Parliamentarians should gather themselves together and bear the cost.

Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu is gone but I would like to recite this verse:

*Could we but stand where Moses stood  
And view the landscape o'er  
Nor Jordan's stream  
Nor death's cold flood  
Could drive us from the shore*

May his soul rest in peace!

**Senator Chief S. Longe:** This is a very sad occasion, much unlike other occasions when we meet in this House. Nigeria has lost a patriot. It is said, "To every man in this world death cometh soon or late", and how can a man die better than in the service of God and of his father land? The late Defence Minister die a better death. He lived in this world for fifty-five years.

Nigeria has a population of about fifty-five million; it means he lived a year for every million people. If we had had a population of sixty million, perhaps, our friend would have lived for sixty years.

In any case he died as every Moslem would wish to die—after returning from a pilgrimage to Mecca. It is said that those who watch a play feel more of the play than those who actually take part in it. Those of us who are

not in the Cabinet did not have daily intercourse with the late Alhaji Ribadu, yet we knew him, perhaps, better than those who worked with him everyday.

Anybody in his place, as the Minister of Defence of this country, I know, could have shown himself as a tribalist or a man partial to this or that particular tribe. But this cannot be said of the late Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu. Although he held one of the most important portfolios in the Federal Government he had the distinction of having two of the ablest Nigerians to head two of the three departments in his Ministry—the Head of the Nigerian Army and the Head of the Nigerian Navy. Perhaps if he had lived longer he would this year have made a Nigerian the Head of the Nigerian Air Force. For his part in Nigerianising our Armed Forces, Nigeria must always be grateful to the late Alhaji Ribadu.

He had no tribal considerations for promotions or appointments. His death, at this time of Nigeria's development, when we need mature and experienced statesmen to guide our ship of state is, to say the least, very painful indeed, and I pray that God may give us more Ribadus in this country who would be able to work with fellow Nigerians as Nigerians and not as Ibos, Hausas or Yorubas.

In conclusion, I join those Senators who have spoken before me, in paying deserving tributes to the memory of the late Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu. May his soul rest in peace and may his memory ever remain green with us.

**Senator Chief J. M. Egbuson:** I rise to associate myself with the tributes paid to the memory of the late Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu, former Minister of Defence, the news of whose death came to us as a rude shock. Tributes to his memory cannot be complete if mention is not made of the fraternal relationship between him and the Nigerian Army. He loved the Army and wanted every soldier to have his due honour and position in the Army of this country.

When the plan for the new parliament buildings was being considered by the Planning Committee of the Nigerian Parliament, the late Alhaji Ribadu insisted that an officers' mess should be built for the Nigerian Army, also at the Victoria Island.

Another quality of the late Alhaji Ribadu is that he abhorred tribalism, and it is but fitting that at his funeral the whole country was adequately represented. He knew no tribal barriers in his life time. When the post of Major-General of the Nigerian Army became vacant, many people must have thought that the present holder of the office would not be promoted to the post because he is not an Hausa man or a Northerner but an Ibo man. It was well known that the late Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu had a good say in the appointment of an officer to fill this vacant post. Yet, an Ibo man was appointed, to the satisfaction of everybody in the country to-day.

The late Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu started his parliamentary career in the early fifties and during the uninterrupted period from that time till the time of his death, he accumulated a wealth of experience in parliamentary matters. He was a great statesman. His honesty and sincerity in working for national unity of this country is second to none. He was in the forefront of our national affairs. To all of us he was one of the great links between the North and the South. His untimely death is a tragedy to the nation and an irreparable loss to this Parliament.

The late Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu has been very well described as a God-fearing man. How I wish we had more God-fearing people in this country. I join Senators who have made a request that a memorial of some sort be set up in remembrance of this great man.

May his soul rest in peace and may God guide and continue to lead, comfort and succour the family he has left behind.

**Senator Alhaji Hassan Rafindadi :** by the death of the late Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu, Nigeria has sustained a very grievous loss, befittingly described as irreparable.

The late Alhaji Ribadu was often described as the pillar of our federal set up. By his death the whole country was shaken, and the sad news was broadcast over the network of our national radio. Letters and telegrams of tributes and condolences that have been pouring to the Premier of the Northern Region and the Prime Minister bear eloquent testimony to the late Alhaji Ribadu's exalted position in our country and the high esteem in which he was held.

He led a very useful life dedicated to the service of his people and his country. He was a man of iron will and determination but, alas, he was simple in character, probably because of his deep religious convictions. He was a man of initiative and drive, who, within the comparatively short space of time that he was Minister of Defence, converted the Nigerian Defence Services from their erstwhile colonial status to that of a proud independent nation. The Nigerian Army to-day is a pride to the whole nation and this will for ever stand as a memorial to the service of the late Minister of Defence to his country and his people.

May his soul rest in peace—Amen.

**Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu :** I rise to associate myself with the tributes paid to the memory of the late Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu by Senators who spoke before me. The late Alhaji Ribadu's death is a most painful thing to everybody in Nigeria.

In 1960, I first met the late Alhaji Ribadu in this Parliament; if one goes through the *Hansard*, newspapers or radio talks of the period between then till the time of his death, one will not find his name associated with any controversial issue unless as a peace-maker, and this is how I have always known him. I have always known him as a compromiser, a healer of all wounds. There is nobody who will not pay tribute to the late Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu as one deserving of the honour of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

One of the Senators said that if the late Alhaji Ribadu were alive now to see the completion of the Niger Bridge which he worked so hard to bring into being, it would have been more satisfying. But now that he is no more, we should not forget the role he played in it. I would, therefore, with the permission of the President, suggest that that bridge be named Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu Bridge, so that his memory will always remain green.

We should never forget Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu and we should do our best to see that we pray for him and for his children so that God may help them to produce another person of integrity like their late father.

With this, Mr President, I pray that his soul may rest in peace.



**Senator Rev. A. M. Olaleye :** I rise to associate myself with the tributes being paid to the memory of the late Minister of Defence. Each man is the architect of his life. The man we are honouring to-day became, through the grace of God, what he was. If we examine very closely the life of this man, we will find that his political philosophy was sound, dynamic and unique in that the ultimate goal of his life was the unity and solidarity of Nigeria.

He was a patient man ; he was tolerant and magnanimous, and this attracted other people towards himself. The life of this man was an exemplary one and is a lesson for every citizen of Nigeria to emulate.

Many Senators have prayed that his soul may rest in peace. His soul is already resting in peace. He is no longer in the discomfort, uneasiness and uncertainty of this life. His soul is already resting in peace. The only prayer we can offer to-day is to pray for ourselves so that we will be able to learn from the noble life of this man.

Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu's death also reminds us of the transitory nature of human life. We should therefore endeavour at all times to put in our best in the service of God and our nation. In this man's life, we notice a life based on the principle of God first, fellow men second and self last. If other citizens will only try to put into practice what we have learned from the life of this man, we will go a long way in helping our nation and we will be able to do what God would have us do.

I associate myself with the Senator who suggested that a memorial be set up in his honour. May I add that it is not only just setting up a memorial, but the Government should consider the advisability of writing the life history of this man so that we may have the opportunity of reading it and getting necessary inspiration for our lives.

As we continue to pay tributes to his memory, may we statesmen learn lessons from his life.

**Senator (Mrs) B. U. Kerry :** I rise to say the little I know about the late hon. Muhammadu Ribadu. We are very sorry indeed about his death. Hon. Muhammadu Ribadu was a very nice man. He was one of the people who made the creation of the Mid-West Region possible. He was not proud, but honest and just.

I remember one day I went to him to sign a paper for me. Unfortunately he was not in. I was told he was in a meeting nearby, and I sent for him. He told the boy I sent to ask me to wait for him. I was entertaining some fears about how to approach him. And after a few minutes he came in. He was very happy to see me and asked me all about my mission, and I told him all about it. I gave him the paper and he gladly took it from me and signed it without hesitation. He told me that as a Senator, I should have sent the paper to him through somebody instead of coming myself, and that he would have been only too glad to sign it. Indeed, I left Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu that day with joy in my heart.

The late hon. Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu was a father, and very approachable. Senators all know that many big men are not approachable. But he was. He was not like that class of big men. Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu was a God-fearing man, full of charity and co-operation. By his death, Nigeria has lost a very great leader.

May his soul rest in peace.

**Senator A. E. Ukattah :** The great gloom cast over this Chamber and the solemn silence pervading this House this morning show unmistakably that this nation is truly in mourning.

This is indeed a sad day and it goes to my heart to remark that no period of the part of 1965 already spent had a greater measure of unkindness for this nation or had a worse moment of heavy heartedness to us here in Parliament, than the last week-end which recorded the sad loss, by death, of one of Nigeria's most eminent and illustrious sons.

It was not long ago that I had a warm handshake with Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu. How sad it is to-day that I should speak of him referring to him this day as the late Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu. This is indeed a sad moment.

Perhaps it is indeed this unenviable quality of life that led one celebrated writer to say that—

*As flies to wanton boys are we to the gods,  
They kill us for their sport.*

It was this slippery nature of life that led Shakespeare to liken life to a "tale told by an

idiot full of sound and fury signifying nothing." That is life indeed. Mr President, we know, as well as you do, that death hangs its hands around, that death enters with impunity the castle of the noble, the mansion of the wealthy, the cottage of the poor and the lowly.

I know too that death is the lot of us all. But that the late Alhaji should depart from Nigeria at this time when great patriots are required for the urgent task of nation-building is, indeed, something that goes to our hearts.

The late Alhaji was a personal friend of mine. I met him in this honourable House in 1955 when I was then a Member of the House of Representatives, and there was an incident which I always recall which brought me closer to the late hon. Alhaji Ribadu.

In that year, I had a Motion on electricity supply; the substance of that Motion was that any town, village or hamlet which was prepared to meet fifty *per cent* of all electricity installation costs should be supplied with electricity. As the then Minister of Mines and Power, the late Alhaji approached me and said—"My friend, this is indeed a very good Motion but it entails more than you can realise on the part of the Government. Will you please withdraw it. I know you are anxious about your place, Umuahia. Let me see what I can do for you".

Ever before the House adjourned at that time, one Mr Coker had been dispatched to Umuahia to survey the possibility of electrifying that town. And how happy I am to say that the report submitted by Mr Coker was so favourable that in a very short time Umuahia was electrified. That is the friend I am told is no more, a dependable friend, a man who made a promise and saw to its fulfilment.

Perhaps, Sir, not many of us in this House can fully appreciate the merits of the late Alhaji Ribadu. He was a personal friend of the Prime Minister, in fact his right-hand man and, in that capacity, he wielded tremendous influence for the good of this nation.

As a party man, indeed, he was one of the pillars of his party. He was not intolerant. As a Parliamentarian, the Alhaji proved a valuable neighbour to everyone of us. As a Minister of State he believed that he was a servant and so he was sympathetic, indulgent, co-operative. And as a statesman and patriot, he was an

ardent believer in the oneness of this country and worked towards that goal. This is the man we are told is no more to live with us.

Outside this Parliament, we may all fall into various camps according to our own convictions, political beliefs and ideologies, but believe me, on this day of great mourning we are all partners united in mourning the loss of a man who has made tremendous contributions that will forever carve a niche for him in the history of this nation.

In the matter of death we are helpless, but we can all at least unite in commending his soul to Almighty God whose sole prerogative it is to reward the good he has done.

Mr President, Sir, my heart is so heavy, I can say no more.

May his soul rest in peace.

**Senator Alhaji Abdul Salami Yusifu :** I rise to associate myself with the tributes paid to the late Minister of Defence, Alhaji Muhammad Ribadu, by Senators. The death of the late Minister of Defence is a national catastrophe. By his death, the unity of this country will suffer and his death has created a gap which can hardly be filled. I must say that there is no tribute accorded this gentleman by Senators which will be too great.

In order not to repeat what other Senators have said, I have to stop here because Senators who have spoken before me have dealt with the matter creditably.

May I therefore say, may his soul rest in peace.

**Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu :** I rise to associate myself with the various Senators who have spoken on the death of our respected Minister of Defence, Alhaji Muhammad Ribadu. It is a very sad news that as we the people on earth are willing and asking God to allow a man like Alhaji Ribadu to remain with us because of his good work to the people on earth, the Angels and the Almighty God are watching with keen interest that he will better serve mankind in their holiest mansion where he will not be polluted by our sins.

We are now mourning the death of our departed Minister of Defence, He has helped us to build this great nation and, as such, this is a great loss to the nation.

[SENATOR CHIEF HUNPONU-WUSU]

We all appreciate his kind words, deeds and actions. We people who are privileged to stay in Lagos and near Lagos and have the opportunity of seeing him at several times, either in his residence or at other places, can testify to this that he was never ruffled. We found him at any time smiling at any sort of question asked him, not minding how bitter that question might have been.

According to what one of our Senators has said, whenever one visited the late Minister of Defence, he welcomed the one with the question; "How is it Senator? What can I do for you?" This reminds me of what he did a few months ago. Early in January, by the Grace of God and through the great wisdom of our late Minister of Defence, the crisis that took place a few months ago was averted. It was his wisdom that allowed us to have our present sittings of the House. The present meeting of the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Nigeria was due to his wise counsel, patience, tolerance and words of advice to some people who are our experts in law, in order to keep Nigeria as one solid entity. That is why we are sitting here to-day.

After the last Federal election, as some Senators will bear me out, something happened before the present sitting of this Parliament. The late Minister of Defence had played a very good role during his life time, and he deserves the greatest promotion that we on earth can give him. But I will say this that he deserves a statue in recognition of the part he played in the affairs of this country. Although he is gone, his soul is with us.

I am, therefore, appealing to Senators that something should emanate from this Senate, either in the form of subscriptions or otherwise, with a view to erecting a statue of the late Minister of Defence in front of our Parliament in remembrance of the great son of Nigeria who was so brave, who had so worked and who had so laboured to bring about the unity of this country. It was he who brought the country to a position where we are to-day.

Another testimony to his humility that has just reached me is what an Alhaja from my area said about him. One Alhaja from my area who has just returned from a holy pilgrimage from Mecca came to my house this

morning and was shocked when she heard about the death of the late hon. Minister of Defence, Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu. She held me and said, "Papa, I saw this man with his white gown scrubbing the holy edifice in Mecca". I have not been there personally. That was what I heard this morning. That was a testimony to his humility, respect, dignity and honour. The Alhaja went on to say that he helped three people to scrub their holy edifice in his white gown.

If our late hon. Minister of Defence could climb down to such an extent to be a servant, a cleaner and a washerman in the House of God, what other promotion do we think our great Allah will give him that to call him to heaven so that he may not be polluted with his white gown that everyone of us saw in the newspaper yesterday? I am sure, Senators might have seen in yesterday's newspaper, how he was dressed in white with the Sardauna of Sokoto. What more evidence do we want? My fellow Senators, "Seest thou a man so diligent in his work; he shall surely stand before Kings and not before mean me."

Our Minister of Defence is gone, but he has left an indelible footprint in Nigeria. In order to remember him, I am supporting Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku—that something should emanate from the Senate by way of subscription right away. We should take a decision on this and then pass it on to the Lower House. It is in this way that he will be known and remembered.

It is true that a Senator has suggested that a book should be published in his honour. Yes, but that is not sufficient. People will be coming to Parliament from time to time, so if his statute is erected, the coming generation will come to Parliament and see it and ask, "Who is this man?" That is the practice all over the world. Whatever it might cost us, whatever the subscription might be, I am sure Senators will all agree with me that it will be to our greatest pleasure to subscribe in order to keep up the good name of our departed Minister of Defence.

May his soul rest in peace.

**Senator M. Malachias Bawa** : Thank you, Mr President. To-day is a sad day and we are all here gathered. Each one of us who knew the late Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu up

to the day of the announcement of his death was shocked. Anyhow, everyone of us is aware of his death and that is the way all of us will go.

The late Minister of Defence, Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu, has come and gone and he has laid down a foundation stone for the generations of this country to follow—and that is patience and tolerance. Without these two qualities his name probably would not have been remembered and everyone of us would not have been praying for him. If people are praying and dancing to-day, it is because of the good name he has left behind.

As many Senators have said, in fact much has been said, and as such I need not repeat them. I will only suggest, as was said by one of our Senators, that something must be done in memory of the late Minister of Defence.

May the soul of Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu rest in peace.

**The President :** If I may summarize what the Senators have in mind concerning the great man who is gone, I would put it this way—that the Legislature of Nigeria mourns for Ribadu, because the Legislature, as a branch of every government in every country, has specific essentials, specific canons that make the existence of a Legislature a *sine qua non*.

Among those canons are the capacity for compromise, independence in action, responsiveness to public opinion, representative of the peoples, the co-ordination of their interests, the power to make a party effective, honesty and the fear of God.

These are the canons of any Legislature, and I think that as all the Senators spoke this morning, I have become fully convinced that, without saying many words, you gave a cement of action to the reality that Ribadu represented all these canons of a Legislature, otherwise we would not mourn for him.

He was compromiser and not a coward. Everything that is solid breaks at the meeting of an opposing force. Things that are fluid get to their destination. Fluidity means compromise. Those who are solid break like Hitler and those who compromise go on like Washington and others. Ribadu was a compromiser, not a coward.

**Independence.** He represented the state of independence in this country in the Legislature by not always being anything that he belonged to—Adamawa or the North. His loyalty was universal, but in his person, Ribadu as a Ribadu was independent in all things affecting the growth of this nation—and that is the function of a legislator.

**Responsiveness.** As I have heard from several Senators here, even those who are new, without any further witnesses, you all have said that whenever you went to him for anything, he responded. That is what is called responsiveness, and that is the function of a legislator.

**Co-ordination.** This man who died—he belonged to the North where he was born.

He belonged to the N.P.C. as a party, but I shall tell you that behind the scenes, behind closed doors, this man was the co-ordinator of all the Regions of Nigeria from the point of view of progressive compromise, and also within his party.

**A Party-power.** Although he loved Nigeria and although he was a citizen of the whole country, let us always remember that even in his own party itself there are various tribes and many cultures. You may think that the North is so compact and that it is one. But it is not. There are "Maidugurians," "Adamawans" and "Sokotoans". They are different from one another. But this man was the party-power and co-ordinator. He was powerful because he had another quality, the quality of honesty and fear of God which Northerners respect in any human being.

So when we worship and talk about this man, I would like us to talk as somebody who is pointing a finger at somebody else. When you point a finger to the dead, remember the living, and remember that three fingers are pointing at you. Ask yourself what you are now doing. Are you a co-ordinator or a disintegrator? Are you a compromiser or someone who is self-opinionated? What are you in the country? Are you responsive, representative and independent? Or do you allow yourself to be used by people?

Above all, this country has a weakness against which I would like to warn on the Floor of this House. We have no way of

[PRESIDENT]

remembering our heroes in the manner that others do. We do not appear to be hero worshipers when we ought to be. Therefore, let us begin with Alhaji Ribadu, the greatest man who has died after independence. Let this country, the Cabinet, the Government, the President of the Federal Republic, the Legislators and all do something very great for the late Alhaji Ribadu so that greatness may mean something to the growing generation.

Fellow Senators, I am done.

#### ADJOURNMENT

*Motion made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn—*(MINISTER OF STATE : ALHAJI NUHU BAMALI).

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved : That this House do now adjourn.*

*Adjourned accordingly at twenty-four minutes to twelve o'clock.*

SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC  
OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 5th May, 1965

The Senate met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

OATHS

Oath of Allegiance was administered to the following new Members—

Mr Abiola Oshodi (Minister of State)

Mr D. C. Ugwu (Minister of State)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
RESEARCH

Financial Assistance to Fishermen

**O.73. Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku** asked the Minister of Natural Resources and Research whether he is aware of the fact that the introduction of fishing trawlers has put the indigenous fishermen in Lagos into great economic difficulty; and if he will give these fishermen financial assistance so as to organise themselves to withstand this threat to their means of livelihood.

**Minister of State (Mr Abiola Oshodi)**: It is doubtful if the activities of fishing trawlers which at present number about twelve and are operating from Lagos have any adverse economic effects upon canoe fisheries in Lagos. Certainly, the market demand for the high quality large-size fish landed by set net and canoe fishermen is yet to be satisfied as indicated by market prices for fish.

However, it is recognised that improved landing and marketing facilities are desirable and this need has been borne in mind in planning the new fisheries terminal, which it is hoped, will be constructed soon at Tin Can Island. At the same time the result of mechanised canoe trials being conducted with Lagos fishermen are awaited. It is planned, if the utilization of outboard engine is shown to be profitable, to prepare a scheme for assisting fishermen to obtain outboard engines.

LAGOS AFFAIRS

Central Lagos Slum Clearance

**O.74. Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku** asked the Minister of Lagos Affairs, if he will state how many plots of land were acquired in Central Lagos Slum Clearance; how many of the plots were returned to the original owners; how many are now owned by persons other than the owners or the indigenous natives of Lagos.

**The Minister of Lagos Affairs (Alhaji Musa Yar'Adua)**: The total number of House Plots acquired in Central Lagos under the slum clearance scheme is 1,686. A total number of 147 plots have been re-allocated to the original owners of properties acquired under the Scheme in the four sub-areas where redevelopment has not been completed in eight of the twelve sub-areas and no re-allocation has been made in these areas. No plot has been allocated to anyone who is not an original owner. The plots being free-hold it is not possible to ascertain which of these plot already re-allocated to the original owners were re-sold by the owners to persons other than the indigenous natives of Lagos.

HOUSING AND SURVEYS

Rent Control

**O.75. Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku** asked the Minister of Housing and Surveys, if he will consider the immediate setting up of a Rent Control Committee to combat the excessive rents now charged by landlords in Lagos.

**Mr Abiola Oshodi**: The possibility of setting up a Tribunal to control rents in the Federal Territory of Lagos is receiving attention and I hope to be in a position to introduce a Bill to the next meeting of Parliament on this subject.

**The President**: Order, order! Sitting suspended for fifteen minutes.

*Sitting suspended : 10.15 a.m.*

*Sitting resumed : 10.30 a.m.*

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

## APPROPRIATION (1965-66) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**The Minister of Finance** (Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh): I have it in command from His Excellency the President to move,

That a Bill for an Act to authorise the issue out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of seventy-eight million, two hundred and twenty-one thousand, five hundred and ten pounds for the service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-six: and to appropriate that amount for the purposes specified in this Act, be read a Second time.

I feel very deeply honoured that responsibility for the nation's finances should have been entrusted to me once again, although I fully realise the great responsibility which I bear. I am grateful to the hon. Prime Minister for giving me yet another opportunity to serve the nation.

When this country achieved independence in 1960, some people doubted if the citizens of this country would be able to shoulder the responsibilities of independent nationhood, although there was abundance of goodwill from many quarters. I cannot claim that we have solved all the problems facing the nation, but we have faced them with determination, and there can be no doubt that Nigeria is determined to wield powerful influence in the affairs of Africa and the world at large.

During the past twelve months, Nigeria has emerged from two serious crises. The first crisis was the strike in January by employees in the public and private services which dealt a heavy blow to the country's productive efforts, and was resolved by the Government and the Private employers agreeing to pay increased wages to the workers. The strike was an unfortunate incident but the country was able to demonstrate its steadiness and good commonsense and to avert violence and civil commotion.

The second crisis followed the General Election at the end of December and I would not like to dwell on what happened on that occasion. It is adequate to say that through

God's guidance we were able to turn from the brink of disaster which would have blighted the aspirations of millions of our fellow countrymen and disappointed the hopes of our friends overseas.

It cannot be said too often that Nigeria is a country of diverse people. But we of our own free will have agreed to live together under a Federal system of Democratic Government. No Federation can avoid occasional stresses and strains arising between its components. What is essential is that when difficulties arise the citizens should all resolve to overcome them in the interest of the nation. It is necessary more than ever before for all of us to resolve to promote political stability and conditions in which we can devote ourselves to the urgent task of raising the standards of living of our people, and in which others will be more willing to assist us.

The ambitions of the people of this country are: to better their positions in life, to be sure of a full stomach each day, to have a sound roof over their heads, schools for their children and medical care when needed. It is the realisation of these human ambitions to which we should devote and re-dedicate ourselves under the able leadership of the Prime Minister, and not to the dissipation of our energies on petty squables. For this reason, I have chosen to call this Budget the '*Rededication Budget*'.

Three years ago, I spoke of the need for sacrifice and saving as a necessary condition for economic growth and national prosperity. The need for sacrifice and saving is still urgent if the nation is to enjoy a brighter future. It is essential that everyone of us must work harder and make necessary sacrifices in order that the nation may achieve greatness and economic prosperity.

I propose now to review briefly the events of the past year. One of the most important events in 1964 which I have already referred to was the agreement reached in regard to the increased wages and salaries following the Morgan Report. As a result of the agreement increases in remuneration were provided for those earning less than £600 *per annum*. During the strike both workers and employers showed great restraint and for this I have nothing but praise.

The cost of the Morgan Award increased the Federal Government recurrent budget by some £3 million and I reckon that the total cost must be very impressive if the costs to the Regional Governments, the Statutory Corporations and to the private sector of the economy are added to the Federal figure. The pay increase also affected the capital budget since estimates for projects with high labour content had necessarily to be revised upwards.

I want to reassure the workers of this country that this Government stands by the agreement which was entered into by the previous Government on the Morgan Report. Given patience and goodwill, solutions will be found to the remaining aspects of the agreement which have not yet been fully implemented.

One urgent problem which we must all tackle straight away is the modernisation of our agriculture. The bulk of our agricultural output is still dependent on methods which our forefathers used generations ago. In view of our rapidly increasing population and the ever shrinking supply of agricultural labour to produce the needs of this increasing population, there is the danger that we may one day find ourselves unable to produce enough food for all the mouths wanting it, unless we do something quickly to modernise our agriculture. It seems to me that the most helpful approach to the problem lies in farm settlements.

This is perhaps a problem more for the Regional Governments than for the Federal Government. I know very well that the Regional Governments have already established a few farm settlements. However, in view of the seriousness of the problems of adequate food supply and unemployment, the Federal Government will be prepared to seek ways and means of assisting well thought-out programmes on farm settlements.

The Central Bank has continued to play an important role in the economic development of this country. In February, the Bank acting on behalf of the Federal Government issued a £15 million loan, the Federal Republic of Nigeria Second Development Loan. Public response to the offer was poor, and a substantial balance was taken up by the Central Bank. As a result, the Central Bank's aggregate holding of Federal Government securities is

now nearly £26 million after the first three years of the Development Plan period. I call on all those who have surplus funds to invest more in the development loan stocks as a patriotic duty, so that the Central Bank's holdings may be reduced and by so doing avoid inflationary danger to the economy.

Those who cannot invest in development stocks should invest, in savings certificates and premium bonds, the savings they have hoarded away which bring profit neither to the holders nor to the nation.

The Central Bank has continued to issue Treasury Bills on behalf of the Federal Government. At the 31st March a total of £35 million of Treasury Bills were on issue, of which £4½ million were on-lent to the Regions. The Government is keeping a careful watch on the tendency of the total amount of issue to rise at a faster rate than the increase in short-term funds seeking an investment outlet, so that inflationary dangers may be avoided.

The Central Bank has also continued to be actively involved with the financial problems of the Marketing Boards. The Bank recently raised the limit of its refinance facilities to the Marketing Board financing consortia from £27 million to £30 million exclusive of facilities made available to licensed buying agents.

An important development in the money market is the vigorous growth in call money facilities outside the Central Bank. This development accords with the need to deepen the financial mechanism of the economy.

A comprehensive review of the Banking Act, about which I spoke last year, is now being undertaken. The Banking Act when revised will ensure that all the commercial banks, as well as other financial institutions in the country, perform their functions efficiently.

There has been increasing pressure on the banking system for credit, and it has been necessary to apply some restraint in order to guard against the threat to economic stability which such inflationary pressures present. Much of this demand for bank credit comes from foreign companies, and I feel bound to issue a warning to those companies which follow a policy of reliance on local borrowing as a substitute for adequate permanent capital.



[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

and I repeat, it is quite incorrect. It would indeed be cause for very considerable disquiet if in fact there had been a balance of payments deficit of £40 million in 1964, but the truth is that the deficit was a little over £17 million.

The error seems to have arisen from a failure to understand the difference between the balance of trade and balance of payments, and I think it will be helpful if I try to explain this very real and important difference to Senators.

The balance of trade is but one element in the overall balance of payments account, and is the difference in value between total imports and total exports. If the value of exports exceeds the value of imports, there is a favourable balance, and, conversely, if imports exceed exports in value, the balance of trade is adverse.

In 1964, imports exceeded exports by some £41 million, and there was thus an adverse balance of trade, or trade gap, of £41 million. I believe that it must be this that has erroneously been referred to recently as a balance of payments deficit of about £40 million. But as I have said, the balance of trade is only one element in the balance of payments. Another element is what is sometimes spoken of as the services account, or invisibles, to differentiate it from the trade account, or visibles. This is high economic proposition but it is true. The services account includes such items as travel, freight, insurance, dividend remittances and servicing of loans. It is estimated that this account was in deficit by about £23.4 million in 1964.

Between them, trade and services make up the current payments account, and this showed an estimated adverse balance of £66.4 million in 1964.

The third element in the balance of payments is the capital account. In 1964 this showed a very marked improvement, to the extent that there was a net capital inflow of about £49 million.

Thus, on the one hand we have an adverse current account balance estimated at about £66 million, whilst on the other hand we have a favourable capital account balance of about £49 million. Overall, therefore, the balance of payments in 1964 showed a deficit of a little over £17 million. I think that I have made myself very clear.

Several hon. Senators : Yes.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I have gone into this at some length because I think it is most important that there should be full understanding of the difference between a trade deficit and a payment deficit. Any suggestion that there was a payments deficit of £40 million could be most damaging to Nigeria's reputation for following sound financial policies. To leave no further room for misunderstanding, I make no apology for repeating that the balance of payments deficit in 1964 was just over £17 million. This represents a considerable improvement over the performance in 1963, when there was an adverse balance of payments of £30 million. I hope that this comparison will help to put the matter into its proper perspective, and enable Senators to see that the adverse balance of payments in 1964 was in fact considerably less than in 1963.

Nonetheless, Mr President, I do not wish to give this House the impression that I regard a £17 million payments deficit as of little account. It is indeed a matter which demands, and is receiving, the closest attention of the Government. The size of the trade gap in particular is, to say the least, disappointing, not only because of its absolute magnitude but also because it marks a sharp reversal of the trend during the previous two years, when the gap was progressively narrowed. In 1964 the value of our exports increased by nearly £22 million, which is by no means unsatisfactory. But the value of imports increased by no less than £45 million. Hence the widened trade gap. The trade balance, as it develops during 1965, calls for and will receive very close attention.

As I have said, there was a net capital inflow during 1964 of £49 million. This gives cause for considerable satisfaction, being a very marked improvement on the previous two years. But there is one aspect of this capital inflow which causes me some misgiving. Now, I invite the attention of Senators and ask them to please listen to me carefully. Fortunately, it is a matter that is within the power of the Regional Governments to correct, and I hope therefore that they will heed my words.

I am sure that it is well known to Senators that all the Governments in the Federal Republic attach great importance to industrialisation, and that they have all been instrumental in the

establishment of a number of industries. In many cases, these Government-sponsored industries are set up with the assistance of foreign partners, who contribute to the equity and arrange for loans and credits to be made available from abroad to finance the purchase of machinery and equipment. Such credits are usually short or medium-term, rarely being repayable over more than seven years, with four or five years being perhaps the average.

Loans and credits of this kind added to the inflow of capital during 1964, but it must not be forgotten that the repayments will make calls upon our external reserves during the next five years or so. To the extent that the establishment of an industry results in a saving of imports and therefore a saving of foreign exchange, this is perfectly acceptable. But the industry must be viable. If it is not viable, it will not be able to contribute to the economy a saving in foreign exchange equal to the amount of exchange required to service its external borrowing, and it will thus be a further drain on the external reserves.

Nigeria's potential economic strength lies in her size and her population. If this potential strength is to be fully realised, Nigeria must be developed as an economic unit. Although this is widely acknowledged, it is not always put into practice, and it is matter for regret and indeed for concern that Regional Governments seem sometimes to be motivated in their establishments of industries more by rivalry and prestige than by economic considerations. Too often we see an industry being planned by one Region, not because a full and independent feasibility study has shown a clear need for it, but because similar industries have already been started in neighbouring Regions. Such policies can bring no real benefit, and may well prove disastrous. They seek to make the Region the economic unit rather than the whole Federation, and so throw away the immense advantage of a single large economic unit. They result in over-investment in single industries, and a wasteful use of resources. It is in such over-investment that the danger of payments difficulties lies, for it means that productive capacity will not be fully utilised. The exchange savings forecast will not be realised, whilst an unnecessarily large foreign investment will have to be serviced.

We have all heard of the exchange difficulties which some developing countries have got themselves into through unwise investment in useless factories and machinery, and of how such machinery lies idle and unproductive whilst the credits with which it was acquired have to be repaid.

Mr President, Sir, I feel that I must with all seriousness warn that this could happen in Nigeria if the Regional Governments continue to sponsor the establishment of industries in their own Regions without regard to the wider interests of the Federation as a whole. If the present rivalry continues, we shall soon see the sorry spectacle of one Government-sponsored industry in cut-throat competition with another. It is the vital interest of us all that there should be less rivalry and more co-operation between the various Governments in the establishment of industries.

Sir, at this stage, I would like to turn for a while to discuss the National Development Plan, having answered, I think, some of the problems which have given matters of controversy during the last fortnight. I would like to turn for a while to discuss the National Development Plan, whose third year has just ended. I shall as far as possible confine my remarks to the financial aspects of the Plan.

In the first year of the Plan the gross domestic product increased by 3.1 per cent, and preliminary indications are that in the second year the growth was maintained at much the same rate. Provisional figures show that Government expenditure in the implementation of the public sector of the Plan during the first two years totalled £150 million. Within this overall total, Federal Government expenditure amounted to £86 million of which £11.4 million came from recurrent budget surpluses, £21 million from internal borrowing, £14.5 million from the internal resources of Statutory Corporations, and £15.9 million from foreign aid and the balance, over £22 million, was drawn from external reserves and other accumulated funds.

In spite of the formidable difficulties which had to be overcome I think it can be said that the Plan as a whole has made satisfactory progress. This can be illustrated in concrete terms by referring to projects in the Plan which are either completed or are nearing completion.

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The Niger Dams Project, the Electricity Corporation transmission lines programme and the construction of the Ughelli Power Station are making excellent progress.

Construction of the great Niger road bridge, and of the Shagamu-Benin, Tegna-Daura and Otta-Idiroko roads is nearing completion, while work is going ahead on other roads and bridges, details of which I would not like to bother you with this morning.

The Nigeria Airways, the Nigerian Railway Corporation, the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation and the Nigerian Television Service, as well as the University of Lagos and the Lagos Teaching Hospital have all made steady progress with their individual programmes.

The private sector, which is as important as the public sector, has also seen some remarkable expansion particularly in industrial activity.

The gross production in major manufacturing industries in the first year of the Plan was nearly £82 million and a quarter of this was contributed by industries established since 1958.

In its first year of operation the National Industrial Development Bank, which is already justifying the faith and vision of those who established it, sanctioned financial assistance to nineteen industrial projects located in all parts of the Federation. It is gratifying to note that not less than eight of these nineteen projects were promoted by companies in which the controlling interest is held by Nigerians, whilst in the remaining eleven, the Bank by its participation was able to secure an equity interest either for private Nigerian investors or for itself.

I gladly take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the good work of the Board of Directors and of the General Manager and his staff in establishing the Bank on sound lines.

There are three major Government-sponsored industries which will have come into production during the year, namely, the security printing works of the Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Company Ltd., the Oil Refinery of the Nigerian Petroleum Refining Company Ltd., and the Nigeria Sugar Company Limited's mill at Bacita.

The Federal Government is also associated with a number of other industries which have yet to be completed and to commence produc-

tion. In some cases the Federal Government is a partner in the project, while in others it has made possible the establishment of Regional industries by giving its guarantee to suppliers' credits.

In addition to industries in which the Government has a direct or indirect interest, numerous other industries have been established by private enterprises in the Regions, in many cases by Nigerian investors acting in partnership with foreign investors who are attracted to Nigeria as an investment opportunity by the generous incentives offered by the Government and by the favourable investment climate which has been nurtured with such care over the years.

In answer to the unfair criticisms sometimes levelled against the Government for not spreading development sufficiently widely, I would like to remind Senators that in a country of the size of Nigeria it is difficult to bring home to the ordinary citizen the extent of the industrial development that is taking place, unless it happens to be on his own doorstep. For instance, the Bornu railway extension has cost something like £20 million to complete. But a man in my own constituency, Warri, does not feel any impact on his everyday life from this massive investment which, owing to the size of Nigeria, has produced tangible results hundreds of miles away from his home.

The very size of this country which is a source of pride to us is nevertheless a real handicap in bringing home to the ordinary citizen that impressive development is taking place throughout Nigeria. However, those of us who are in a position to take a broad view know that anything which strengthens a part also strengthens the whole. I am confident that in a very few years' time the results of our efforts will be evident enough in their effect on the level of living throughout the country.

A major question in many minds is what will happen to the Six-Year Development Plan in the remaining three years. The answer is that the Federal Government is as determined as ever to follow the Plan through to its completion we are resolved to make the maximum possible progress with the implementation of the Plan before 1968. But in order to achieve this result we must increase domestic saving, the inadequacy of which is at present the major limiting factor in the further implementation of

the Plan. I implore every citizen of this country once more to make the necessary savings from his current production for investment in the Plan. Without savings there can be no investment, and without investment there can be no economic growth.

Last year I stated that the total assured external finance for the public sector of the Plan was £196 million. I am glad to be able to announce that this figure has now reached a level of £230 million. This amount represents the total commitment, and I do not want to give Senators the mistaken impression that we are yet able to draw down the whole of the amount.

Only a part of the total is yet the subject of the formal project agreements which are usually pre-requisite to drawing on any loan, grant or other form of assistance. Thus it is that of the total capital expenditure of £150 million in the first two years of the Plan, less than £20 million, or thirteen *per cent*, represents foreign aid, a figure far below the fifty *per cent* financing from foreign aid which forms one of the Plan assumptions. But the facts of the situation are not as disappointing as the bare figures might suggest. The truth of the matter is that the level of external finance thus far committed to the Plan has been very encouraging, whereas the process of utilizing these commitments proves to be painfully slow.

On behalf of the Government and people of this Republic I thank the World Bank and its affiliates for the nearly £58 million which they have committed to the Plan since it was launched; I also thank all the countries and the organisations that have assisted us in implementing the Plan either in the form of loans or grants. I am sure we can count on their continued assistance.

In the course of the year just ended I had the honour and privilege of representing Nigeria at a number of international conferences including the annual meetings of the Commonwealth Economic Consultative Council, the International Financial Institutions and the inaugural meeting of the African Development Bank. All these conferences provided the participants with the unique opportunity to exchange views on monetary developments in their individual countries and in the world as a whole, and to discuss the various solutions propounded for these problems. The

African Development Bank has the specific task of advancing the economic and social development of its members individually and jointly by promoting investment in the continent of private and public capital.

I have dwelt at some length on development of the public sector, but I want also to say a few words on Government policies on the development of private enterprise. It is Government's intention to continue the policy of offering incentives and protection to foreign capital. Government is now reviewing the structure of industrial incentives for specific industries of high priority which Government would like developed in the private sector. We have come to a stage in which we should try to be more selective than hitherto in the type of incentives we offer in order to induce private capital to invest in otherwise less immediately attractive areas of the economy.

Closely connected with investment incentives is our exchange control policy. I wish to emphasise that it is Government's intention to adhere to the existing relatively free and unrestricted exchange control policy, although, as I have already said, we expect foreign companies to re-invest more of their profits in the country.

And now, Mr President, I turn to the Estimates themselves. The out-turn of the 1963-64 shows that there was a final budget surplus of £138,000 after transferring £3 million to the Development Fund.

On the other hand the out-turn of the year 1964-65 shows that the surplus for the year is expected to be as much as would enable no less than £10 million to be transferred to the Development Fund.

May I say, Mr President, that at the conclusion of the debate on this Bill yesterday in the Lower House, a little bit of the £10 million of our surplus revenue last year was accordingly paid into the Consolidated Development Fund.

I am happy that we were able to obtain this improvement in spite of the cost of the Morgan salary and wages award which, as I have already stated, cost the Government some £3 million in 1964-65.

The two principal reasons for this substantial revenue surplus are, first, reduced expenditure and, second, increased revenue. Expenditure

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during the year just ended is estimated to be about £75 million, £3 million below the Approved Estimate of recurrent expenditure. This reduction in expenditure is due mainly to the very stringent expenditure control imposed at the beginning of the year.

But the greater contribution to the surplus comes from revenue and this in turn was a result of the revenue measures which I introduced during the year of which the most significant was the extension of excise duties to a wide range of goods produced by Nigerian industries.

Turning to the current year, I estimate that total revenue will exceed £160 million, an increase of more than £13 million over the revise estimate for 1964-65. Of this amount the Regions will receive £64 million, leaving the balance of £96 million to the Federal Government.

The only features of this year's revenue estimates to which I want to bring to the Senators' attention are under Head 3. First, with the agreement of the Regional Governments some relief is to be given in the rate of vehicle licences in respect of agricultural tractors and similar machines which are not normally operated on public roads, but which their owners have to license to permit their occasional use on public roads. Secondly, the Pool Betting Tax is to be increased from the present rate of ten *per cent* to twenty *per cent* as in the Western and Mid-Western Nigeria. Thirdly, steps are to be taken to impose a special tax on casinos, for which only one licence has so far been issued.

Turning to the expenditure estimates, I wish to remind Senators that provision for the new Ministries appears in a separate corrigendum volume. Total Federal recurrent expenditure for the coming year is estimated at £86 million, representing an increase of £8 million compared with the Approved Estimates for 1964-65. We cannot remain complacent at this increase, an increase of some 10 *per cent*, because it means that Government's current consumption is growing much faster than the overall growth rate of the economy as a whole.

The main reasons for the net increase in the estimated recurrent expenditure are the recent increases in salaries and wages and the recurrent costs arising from completed development

projects. The Senate can be assured that efforts will not be relaxed to curb extravagance and waste wherever they are found to exist.

I now turn to the Capital Budget. On the information at present available, I estimate that the Development Fund, which showed a credit balance of £22 million when the Development Plan was launched in 1962, increased its debit balance from £6.8 million at 31st March, 1964 to rather over £23 million at 31st March, 1965. Thus in the first three years of the Development Plan, development expenditure has exceeded development receipts by an estimated £47 million, part of which has been met from accumulated balances and part from realization of investments.

The main reason for the drain on the accumulated balances was the unavoidable necessity to devote to the needs of security and defence a greater proportion of the total effort than had been anticipated. It was only right and proper that we should meet this need.

The Government is determined that the Capital Estimates for 1965-66 shall be contained, as far as possible, within the financial resources expected to accrue during the financial year.

As Senators will see from the printed draft Capital Estimates, and the cyclostyled amendment sheets, it has not in fact been possible to succeed in this completely, and the estimated Federal Government expenditure for the year, amounting to £61.5 million, exceeds estimated net receipts of £47.4 million by £14.1 million.

The reason for this is that capital expenditure cannot be readily turned on and off like a tap. Once contracts and commitments have been entered into, they have to be carried through to their conclusion, and rarely is a project completed within a single financial year. Thus, in drafting the estimates for one year, first consideration must be given to provision for the continuation of projects already begun in previous years.

At this mid-way stage of the Development Plan, many projects, some of them of considerable size, have got under way, projects such as the Kainji Dam and the National Telecommunications Programme. Faced with the choice of incurring a deficit or of abandoning such projects, there could be only one answer. The projects must continue. But

our resources are now at full stretch, and the number of new projects for which provision can be made is strictly limited. Consideration can only be given to those of the very highest priority. This once again points to the lesson that we can afford no relaxation of our efforts to maximise savings, both at the personal level and in public expenditure, in order that the resources needed to carry the Development Plan through to a successful conclusion shall be assured.

This in brief is the economic and financial review of the state of the Nation at the end of the third year of the Development Plan. The picture is neither too rosy nor too gloomy. There have been some successes as well as set-backs.

What is uppermost in the mind of every patriotic Nigerian is the well being of the whole Federation and I pray that God may grant us the power to achieve this ambition.

I beg to move.

**Minister of State** (Senator Chief J. I. G. Onyia) : I beg to second.

**Senator T. A. Idowu** : I rise to support the Second Reading of the 1965-66 Appropriation Bill. In doing so I have one or two points to make. I would like to refer Senators to page 11 of the 1965-66 Estimates. This page deals with the Estimated Surplus.

In my opinion, surplus of £76,400 is too small. Already the number of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries has gone up to 80. This increase implies that more government officials of various grades and more expenditure in equipping the Ministries will have to be considered.

Again I invite the attention of Senators to pages 12 and 25 of the Estimates. Here the revenue of the country has been shown. It is stated at page 25 that rent of Government Property is expected to bring in £572,510. Revenue from this source could be larger if only the Government would revise their rent policy.

As Senators already know, public opinion has been very persistent in demanding a policy whereby occupants of Government properties would pay economic rents. In making these demands, the public have taken into consideration the ability of the occupants to pay economic

rents, the equity of this policy vis-a-vis occupants of properties not owned by Government and the financial needs of the Government.

I humbly submit that the reasons advanced in favour of payment of economic rents for Government properties cannot be validly challenged. It will therefore be in keeping with the spirit of our democracy and the policies of the Government to ensure that this source of revenue is fully exploited.

I would again invite the attention of Senators to page 13 which deals with expenditure. There has been a general increase in expenditure for the services of the Government, and if the increase in the number of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries is anything to go by, further increases are to be expected which would require Supplementary Estimates.

However, the increase in expenditure with which we are concerned now is not due to increase in the number of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries, but to the security and other needs of the country. Here the increase in the votes for the Police by £1,449,200 for the Army by £556,650, for the Air Force by £445,470, and for the Prisons by £112,740, is to be noted.

Senators will recall that some desperate people by thuggery, arson, sabotage and murder really threatened the security of the state and the peace, harmony and unity of this country during the last few years.

As much as it is desirable to improve the services of our Armed Forces—and this implies more expenditure—it must be noted that it is these desperate people that have forced this increase in public expenditure at a time when money is needed for income-yielding projects.

I believe that we are right to speak on what happened in this country during the last Federal elections. I think that if we must join hands with the Government which has made a very important increase in the cost of the maintenance of the Police, the Prisons, the Air Force and the Army, we must gird our loins.

During the last Federal Elections, there were several murders in Ijebu. I make mention of Ijebu because this is the place on which I can speak with certainty, I being a native of Ijebu Igbo. One such murder out

[SENATOR CHIEF NGIANGIA]

the advanced countries of the world, there is what is called investment control—there is a committee controlling investment. Why is it that such a committee is not instituted in our young country?

May I say that savings are different from investments. The hon. Minister pointed out that some of the Regions are over-investing. If there is investment control which will co-ordinate all the investments in the Federal Republic, this complaint will not arise with the hon. Minister at the head of such a committee. May I suggest that there should be control and whenever any investment is to be made, particularly an investment in which a foreign body has shares, such investment should be shared between the Regional Government and the Federal Government. Whether that investment is in the East or the West or the North or the Mid-West, there should be some sort of control. If there cannot be an overall control for the whole Republic, there should be individual control between the Federal Government and the Regional Government that is setting up the industry.

May I also say in this regard that it would be a very unsatisfactory policy if industries are centred only in the Federal territory. I have my reasons for saying this. The Regions are by far bigger than the Federal territory and consumption in the Regions will also be more than it will be in the Federal territory. In order to satisfy some of the economic yearnings of the people in the Regions, the Federal Government should make a fair distribution of the siting of Federal industries in the Regions.

I will now speak on savings which the Minister of Finance pointed out was unsatisfactory. I really agree that we are not making enough savings commensurate to our size and our economy. I have some points to make concerning our policy on savings. Our policy is such that all savings institutions are centred in the big towns. I agree that savings institutions must be centred in the big towns but Government should not forget that the people in the rural areas have no opportunity to save. Except we bring the savings institutions very near to the rural areas, the people will not even know what is going on.

There is plenty of unproductive income in Nigeria, not saved, not invested but hoarded in the villages. What are we going to do in that

respect? I think the smallest agency for saving that we have in the villages is the Post Office Savings Bank. Why do we not have Savings Bank facilities in all the Postal Agencies in the rural areas? The money deposited in these Post Office Savings Banks can be safeguarded in a safe and the Postal Agent can be asked to deposit some amount as security before he can be given Savings Bank facilities. If we do that, savings institutions will be at the door of every villager in this country. School children will learn to save, farmers will learn to save, and housewives too will save.

In my area, the nearest savings institutions are in Port Harcourt. The people in my area, Abonnema and Brass, have to go to Port Harcourt before they can save their money. It is even worse with the villages around Abonnema. There are no savings bank facilities in the Postal Agencies in the area. I am appealing to the Minister of Finance to see to this point that saving facilities are brought within the reach of the people in the villages.

On our balance of payments, may I say that I really enjoyed the scholarly explanation the Minister of Finance gave, differentiating between the balance of trade and the balance of payments. In this regard, I would like to say that we have a lot of foreign finance houses in this country, insurance companies and other finance companies. It appears to me that we are having too many insurance companies in this country. I am even wondering how many people derive benefits from the insurance policies they take out. The Minister of Finance will see how much is going into these insurance companies each week, each month and at the end of the year. All the money paid by our people as insurance premiums is carried away by these expatriate managers to their countries to balance their economy. We should do something about this. We should encourage Nigerians to go into the insurance business. These insurance companies are invading every village in the country using African agents to reach the people. Even in the church yards they are preaching—“come and insure your life, come and insure your property”.

I am of the opinion that preference should be given to agricultural improvements and other production goods and not too much of

consumption goods. If we control consumption goods particularly those things that are made in our country, we will be able to reduce our national debt. It is only advanced countries that can afford to say that national debt does not matter to them and that it could increase as much as possible and that it would not show any increase or decrease in their financial position. But a young country like ours should bother because that is the only visible sign to show whether we are going forwards or backwards. If we balance our payments, we will be happy. If any deficit arises, we will not be happy. I do not think anybody would blame us because that is the level of our understanding. I therefore advise the Government that there should be some control over our imports and exports. In that regard, preference should be given more to agricultural improvements and also to industrialisation.

Before I take my seat, I would like to make a few observations on one or two institutions.

If Senators refer to Head 37—Ministry of Education—at page 119 of the Estimates of the Federation, they will find that the sum of £52,000 was doled out to the West African Examinations Council. Sometime ago, I said in this House that when an institution seeks Government help that institution has given the Government a chance to point out one or two failings about its functions. I am not satisfied with the way this Examinations Council conducted the last West African School Certificate Examination.

Senators will remember that sometime ago reports were made against some schools to the effect that some question papers leaked. I do not know whether this allegation was right or wrong, but the allegation was made not very long ago. But last year this very Council made the West African School Certificate Examination more or less like a School examination. It conducted the examination like that of an ordinary school examination, and tutors were made to invigilate their own boys in their training college for the purpose of taking the West African School Certificate Examination.

To me, this is a policy likely to lower the standard of education. I am not questioning the ability, honesty and integrity of the

principals and tutors of such colleges, but what is worth doing is worth doing well. I am sure, Senators would not, because of the trust they have for a particular boy, ask that boy to take his examination papers and go to his father, so that the father might invigilate him. Even though Senators would trust his father, yet we would not like to do that.

If we dole out so much money to support a Council, that Council should give us an efficient service. It is just a matter of common sense to tell one principal to go to that particular college, and the one there to go to another college for the purpose of invigilation. If it is done this way, we are sure to get efficiency. But if my boy knows that I am going to be the invigilator, he will not be very keen in his work because he will feel that I can be of assistance to him if he runs into any difficulty with the question paper.

I am wondering if the money at their disposal is not sufficient. After all, what about the examination fees they are collecting from our boys and girls? In fact if we spend money on behalf of any institution, we expect that institution to give us efficient service.

If we want to raise the standard of education in the country, we must tell our boys that examination is examination and that everybody should depend on himself. We should not make the conditions of examination so loose for our boys and girls.

Lastly, I come to something concerning the Cabinet of this country because I understand that the Niger Delta Development Board is attached to the Cabinet Office. I wish to make it clear to this House that, that Board is serving a sort of area which is peculiar to any other area in Nigeria. It is only those people who have travelled in that area that know the type of life that the people of this area are living. It is really a special area, not in the sense of politics, but special for the whole of the Federation, and as such, I would have wished that the Estimates of that body had been given a separate Head in the Estimates, and let me also see how much would be doled out to them. But since it has been merged with a greater item—Cabinet Office, nobody knows what happens.

Before coming to this House, I happened to meet the Chairman of that Board and asked



[SENATOR CHIEF AIREWELE]

Unless a mechanised system of farming is adopted to enable the farmers to produce more food, the country will be facing the danger of hunger. In the Mid-West, one finds lorries carrying food to Lagos, from Ishan, Orovbo, Itshekiri, and other parts of the Mid-West. They carry foodstuffs like yams and plantains from these places down to Lagos. Farmers complain that their lands do not yield good crops as before.

This is because the productive capacity of the lands has been exhausted. The lands require the application of some chemicals before they can yield anything more. We are grateful to note that the Federal Government is prepared to help in this respect. We require not only fertilizers but also other mechanical appliances for cultivation.

Another matter which I wish to mention is the question of productive industries. I remember that I advised this House two days ago that we should be careful in siting industries. An industry that is unproductive is a liability to this country. We have observed that some of the industries already established are not productive. We know that the need for siting industries is to give employment to our people but when such industries are not productive great losses result. So, it is wise as a Senator has said, that these industries should be controlled by the Federal Government. Before any industry is sited, it must be ascertained whether it will be productive or not. If it will be unproductive, it should not be established.

**The President :** How can we know ?

**Senator Chief Airewele :** It will be known by the nature of the industry. By experience, we have known most of the industries that are productive and those that are not productive. I quoted a similar example a few days ago that if anybody—(Interruptions).

**The President :** The Minister of Finance has requested previously, quite wisely, solemnly and humbly that we should help ourselves. This is a Budget Speech. If a Senator insists on taking this time, I hope that nobody will blame me when the time comes for me to stop him. Some Senators do not really know what it means to give them the opportunity. Many Senators want to speak, on this Budget. We have some limitations on this issue.

What Chief Airewele should do is to try and finish up the matter so that others will have the chance to speak. He should not be talking as if he were talking in a holiday resort. This is a Budget Speech. I wish that he should do to the point and finish up so that other Senators may give us their own experience.

**Senator Chief Airewele :** It is a pity that I have not finished all my points because of the shortness of time. In order to save time, I beg to support the Appropriation Bill.

**Senator Prince A. Adefarakan :** I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I have a few observations to make.

Perhaps there is no greater proof of the Minister's ability to cope with the onerous duties which his Ministry offers than that from year to year he has been able to name his budget speeches with titles befitting the circumstances. I may say that the Minister of Finance should now be in a position to publish a book reflecting the economy of this country. Nigeria as a nation is now rededicating herself.

Much has been said about our imbalance of trade with other countries, and much more particularly is the national debt that is always being rung into our ears. Suffice it to say however that I have much satisfaction to note that our new discovery of crude oil and exportation of same would help to ameliorate the deteriorating condition.

But I need say this much—there are a number of ways whereby our national wealth could be made healthier. Nigeria we know is an agricultural country; with her size it is a country flowing with milk and honey; perhaps it is the Canaan we read of. It is not only rich in minerals but also in national resources. These riches as are here enunciated are by no means having adverse effects on us the inhabitants by drifting us towards complacency.

I believe that only time would heal this.

This therefore brings me to those aspects which I think in my considered opinion would be of much help to our national economy.

Firstly, it is my considered opinion that more experts like the Gulf Oil Company Staff should be encouraged to assist us in this country to tap our resources. Geologists

should be encouraged. Government should train more Nigerian Geologists to help discover this hidden wealth.

Secondly, if we consider the great amount of profit that is being made from retail trade by foreign firms in this country, it will be alarming to note that these profits are very fantastic and I should suggest that the repatriation of these profits to foreign countries should be discouraged. If this could not be stopped entirely there should be an imposition of tax on the amount to be taken out of the country. Let us tighten our exchange control. If this is done indigenous entrepreneurs will stand to gain; and our young retailers will be in a position to be helped by commercial banks to promote their own trade in their little ways. If the Government could take active steps in this direction these mushroom foreign business undertakings would have no place in this country as Nigeria has been regarded as a fertile ground for them.

Mr President, Sir, may I draw your attention to the quarterly issues of our Trade Journals. From these journals one can see the number of companies that are being registered. It is understood from commercial sources that our company laws give favourable terms to any promoter. These terms are favourable to a fault and as a result many big companies are always evaders of tax.

For example, gigantic companies at the time of their formation may put as low as £100 as their share capital. This is ridiculous, in that it is being done only to evade stamp duties and other forms of taxation. The Minister of Trade should do something about this by having our Company Law revised. This matter is very important because it will not only help to preserve but also to raise our economy.

My third point is in relation to the laxity given to trade union organisations in this country. Recent events have shown that political parties can make use of them to disturb the peace of the nation. They are always out to promise the workers what is always not in the best interest of the Government. Economic stability of this country must be encouraged and preserved. The Government is up to its duties and it knows when to revise the wages of the workers.

It is worthy of note that external publicity has now been assigned to the Ministry of Information, thanks to the good sense and judgment of the Prime Minister. I am confident that by this the impact of Nigeria's greatness will be felt all over the world.

I have to appeal to the Prime Minister that it is high time this country introduced a kind of "death duty". If this is done, it will swell the purse of the Government as well as result in enhancing and sustaining our economy. Many rich have died leaving properties worth thousands of pounds behind which have been drained away through mis-management by their inheritors. I should like to appeal to the Government to introduce legislation for the imposition of "death duties". This measure is bound to bring in more money to the country, thus enabling the Government to cater for the teeming millions of our population by aiming at the greatest good for the greatest number.

**Senator Chief R. A. Umoh :** On a point of order, the Senator who has the Floor is reading his speech.

**The President :** I have not seen him doing so.

**Senator Prince Adefarakan :** May I wind up by reminding the House about the need for more attention to be paid to the development of rural areas than hitherto. In this regard, I have in mind the rural areas in Ife Division where I come from. The villages in Ife Division have only two postal agencies—the one at Olode and the other at Onigbodogì. There should be more postal agencies set up in this Division, particularly in the areas that make up the Ife South Federal Constituency.

At this stage, I should like to report to the Minister of Communications that the number of units of business at the Ipetumodu postal agency has now reached 23,000. Since the Federal Government has decided to reduce the units from 24,000 to 18,000 for an agency to qualify for conversion into a sub-post office, nothing has yet been done to convert the Ipetumodu postal agency into a sub-post office.

Ipetumodu is a fast developing town in Ife, and I do pray that the Minister of Communications would take action to effect the conversion of its postal agency into a sub-post office.

[SENATOR CHUKWUBIKE]

I praise the Minister of Finance for the progressive Budget he presented to the Senate. I whole-heartedly endorse and associate myself with all the praise showered on him by my fellow Senator from the North, Senator Alhaji Hassan Rafindadi.

I feel that it is proper here that we pay glowing tribute to the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister for the amicable settlement of the 1964-65 Federal Elections crisis which shook the very foundation of this country. These two great leaders reached the pinnacle of their maturity during that trying period for it is said that members of the same family do have their quarrels but that their maturity is determined by their ability to settle such differences without external intervention.

I would like to say a few words on the Nigeria Police. I praise the Police for the able way in which they maintain peace and order in this country and I congratulate our indigenous Inspector-General of the Nigeria Police. I have a point however to make on the women wing of the Police.

The recent report on the strength of the Nigeria Police Force showed that there is much decrease and little increase in the senior and junior posts respectively. For example, in 1962 there was no Deputy Superintendent of Police but in 1963 there was one. In 1962 there were 4 A.S.Ps. but in 1963 there were 3. There were 15 Inspectors in 1962 but there were 13 in 1963. In 1962 there were 32 N.C.Os. but there were 20 in 1963.

My point here is that in the senior sector of the Police there is a great decrease in the number of officers and I would like to know the reason for this it is also a pity that our peace-makers, the Police, often lose their lives when discharging their duties. There is no doubt that these men have families to maintain yet they have to die so prematurely for you and me.

There is also no doubt that these men, at their death, have no life insurance policies and I would like to know what the Government plans to do for the families of such people and whether the Government would insure the lives of our policemen, bearing in mind that they run the risk of losing their lives almost every day.

While still on Police, I would like to observe that the vote for the purchase of police vehicle

in 1964 was £9,666 but in 1965 this amount has gone down to £3,000. I would like to know whether this is an indication that all our rural police posts have got vehicles for urgent services. If this is the case, I would like to praise the Minister of Finance but if, on the other hand, there are still some police posts in the rural areas without police vans, I would advise that each police post should have a van. This is a very essential need.

People in rural areas experience very great difficulty and I am speaking from experience. When I was at home there was a case of burglary in my area and a report was made to the Police. The Police could not go to the scene of the crime because they had no van. I therefore had to carry them in my car, to the scene of the incident. I am asking therefore that all the police posts in the Federation should be provided with at least one police van each.

I would like to say a few words on agriculture. The economic salvation of this country lies in agriculture and I am happy to hear from the Minister of Finance that the Federal Government is taking very serious initiative in agriculture. As all the Governments of the Federation have given full support to agriculture, foodstuffs and palm products will, within a short time, begin to be produced on a very large scale. Then we will begin to have surpluses. It is very necessary that we have markets for these surplus products.

I see that up till now we are suffering from lack of markets for our products. As long as this is the case and as far as it is possible, we should buy only from those countries outside Nigeria who buy from us.

Still under this Head, I have to say that I am very happy and it is very interesting and encouraging to see how the Government is pursuing the price of cocoa which has almost depreceated. I am appealing to the Government that the same thing should be done in respect of palm oil and palm kernel. The people who plant palm trees nowadays do so only for domestic use and not for selling. So if the Government will do something to bring about an increase in the market value of palm products, it will be good.

I would now like to move over to the Ministry of Communications. People are no more interested in pumping money into this Ministry

of Communications. It seems that the more we speak about it, the worse it becomes. If the conversion of the Ministry into a quasi-commercial concern will cure the incorrigible long standing situation in this Ministry, then we will be very very happy.

One begins to wonder whether we have qualified meteorologists in that Ministry. I do hope that the new Minister in this Ministry will do something to improve the situation there.

One important point I want to make is on smuggling ; even though I did not hear a word about it from the Minister of Finance, there has been a lot of improvement in checking smuggling in this country, I must admit. But I had thought that with the introduction of the search planes which the preventive officers use and which the people call "Okotie-Eboh" in Calabar area, smuggling would be completely eradicated from Nigeria. But still, we have Indian hemp and other contraband goods being brought into the country.

That shows that those goods are smuggled into this country not only through Calabar, but also through some other parts of the Federation like Port Harcourt, Sapele and so on. Were it only through Calabar that this comes in, there would have been nothing more like smuggling in Nigeria.

I now go over to Information. I have only one, but very important observation to make here. We know that our pressmen and the editors of the press cause more harm to the unity of this country than anything else we can think of. We all know how these people use their pens to incite political parties against one another, incite tribes against tribes and friends against friends. I hope that the Minister of Information will find a way of reducing this by holding a meeting with his regional counterparts.

In this case, I think it is proper that the Minister of Information who is a Senator should be more of a statesman than a politician. We here in this country, to use the words of our respected father in this Senate, the Minister of State, Senator Chief J. I. G. Onyia, must call a spade a spade and nothing else. It will not be proper for any person to lose his right to

landed property or business in any part of this country simply because he comes from another part of the country. I am saying this with all seriousness. If our constitution means anything to us, and if we really mean that Nigeria is one as we all claim, all this should stop.

The recent events which occurred in very rapid succession within some past few weeks prove very clearly that some people at the top encourage tribalism. I must point this out on the Floor of the Senate. Even though the recent attacks on Dr K. O. Mbadiwe and Dr Okechukwu Ikejiani—

**The President :** Is that relevant ?

**Senator Chukwubike :** I will abide by your ruling Mr President. But I thought that while debating the Budget, we could raise several other issues. What I am saying is that if the attacks on these two gentlemen were done with good intentions—

**The President :** This is irrelevant.

**Senator Chukwubike :** Let me just make one final point. What I want to say is in connection with the creation of more states. If we are sincere to ourselves,—

**The President :** That also is irrelevant.

**Senator Chukwubike :** I also abide by your ruling, Sir, and I beg to support the Bill.

**Senator Chief A. O. Fagbenro-Beyioku :** I want to thank the hon. Minister of Finance for the Rededication Budget. The Minister of Finance has become the very embodiment of our financial problems in this country and when we see him, we see our financial photograph. I am sure we are all very proud of him. I want to congratulate him on his being elected the Chairman of the African Development Bank. He has thus brought home to Nigeria a very great honour.

I want to take this opportunity to express my personal feelings to him on the occasion of the death of our late Minister of Defence, Alhaji Ribadu, whom I know too well to be his close friend. We are surprised that with his present frame of mind the hon. Minister could still carry himself and deliver his Budget

[SENATOR CHIEF FAGBENRO-BEYIOKU]

Speech before this House this morning in the way he did. I pray that God may comfort him, because I know what the loss of Alhaji Ribadu is to him personally.

On the Budget, I only want to raise one question. I do hope that by 1966-67 or 1967-68 (I know the present Minister of Finance will still be the Minister of Finance as long as he is a Member of Parliament), he will be able to place before us a Budget which he will christen "Full Employment Budget". I feel that most of these Ministries can help to remove some form of industrial headache if they use the present material they have instead of looking for highly qualified people, people with M.A., B.C.D., and the rest. If there is anybody who has erased the impression that only people with academic degrees can run this country, Chief Okotie-Eboh is number one, and we are all very proud of him. I am sure many people with doctorate degrees in economics cannot stand with Chief Okotie-Eboh to discuss the economic problems of not only Nigeria but of the whole world. (*Hear, hear*). So that, all these people in the various Ministries who have acquired experience and have been there for years, let us encourage them by promoting them.

If we look into the report of the Federal Public Service Commission, we will find that there are over one thousand vacancies unfilled because they are still looking for people with academic degrees, and the people who are doing the work at the moment are not considered competent. I do not think this is fair enough and I am sure the hon. Minister of Finance will look into such problems.

The Budget we are discussing to-day, which is the first Budget before this new Senate, is not a Budget which we should try to slice into some sort of sandwiches. It is a Budget which we should all accept in the same way as we have accepted the previous Budgets, which we should all help to see run well to land Nigeria on the shore of safety.

I congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance and support the Bill.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I do not know whether I would be fair to Senators by replying now but, with your permission, Mr President, if it is the wish of Senators that I should reply in the afternoon, I would be prepared to wait until the afternoon.

**The President :** It is my opinion that not many Senators have spoken. I think they ought to have their opportunity to contribute to this debate.

**Senator Chief J. M. Egbuson :** So much has been said about degrees and qualifications. Qualification, in my opinion, should not be based on degrees. Many Senators have said this, and one Senator in particular mentioned the case of the Assistant Fire Officer who, if we are to go by degrees, will continue to be Assistant forever. Assistant to whom is he? He is assistant to nobody, he is the Head of the Department, running the Fire Services all the same very well.

In these days in this country, we hear of such phrases like "business", "deal", "long leg". So many people can give different interpretations to what they mean, but I think this is the sort of thing that is eating into the fabric of this country, and the earlier something is done about it the better.

There was a time when we used to hear on many occasions of what was called the League of Bribe Scorners. I do not think that body exists any more. Probably, due to fatigue or discouragement they do not exist anymore.

We hear of Special Constables. Many people used to frown on the Police and say they are bribe takers, and we had workers drafted into the Special Constabulary to help the policemen. Among the people are those one would have thought would hate bribery and corruption, but since they got in they did worse things than the regular policemen. Where do we stop in these matters?

I am very happy to see that we have here in this Senate Senator Chief J. I. G. Onyia. I would like to congratulate him on his appointment as a Minister of State. As a Floor Member of this Senate, he did a lot in championing the cause, the dignity of the Senate and its Members. I am hoping that his appointment as a Cabinet Minister is not intended to stifle him. We can be sure that he will get the Cabinet and the country to place Senators in their right place in the Federal and Regional set up. We will watch and see. We have many Senators who are Ministers to-day, and I have no doubt that they will give him the co-operation that he needs to complete this job for Senators.

I would like to say something about the Police. I am glad to see the new uniform of our policemen. For a long time we used to copy Ghana. Ghana put her policemen in trousers many years ago and there was a time when it was thought that because policemen in Nigeria have to wear—

**Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku :** On a point of explanation, for a long time we were not copying Ghana.

**The President :** I think Senator Beyioku is correct.

**Senator Chief Egbuson :** I did not say that we were copying Ghana. What I said was that for a long time Ghana Police were in trousers before Nigeria thought of it. It was also the illusion that the right type of people were not coming into the Police Force because they did not want to wear knickers. Now that we have trousers, I hope the right type of people, the so-called educated ones, men of character, men from good families, will be forthcoming to join the Nigeria Police.

I would like to sound a note of warning and that is that when in knicker days, the policemen were apt to recondition them. They sometimes made them too small, making them as if they were meant for athletics. But now that we have trousers, we must not forget the craze in this country among youngmen to build their trousers so tight round their heaps and ankles that it will need someone to help them take them off.

I think Police officers should make sure that these new trousers are worn as they were tailored. They should not go and put extra pockets on them and still go further to make them slim.

I agree with the previous Senators who said that the police men and women are in a hazardous position. Almost every week, we hear about the death of a policeman whilst on duty. He might have been killed either in a riot or somewhere during the course of his duty. Now, they have to grapple with the highway robbers who are armed to the teeth and who are prepared to kill the policemen at any time. But the question now is, what safeguard is the Federal Government making for the lives of policemen? I think that it is very necessary to secure the lives of all the members of the Police Force. That will certainly attract the right type of men to join the Force.

I remember that on one occasion, a policeman was unable to insure his life. He found it difficult to take out an insurance policy on his life. Even when this police officer went to England, the insurance companies over there told him that they would not insure him because policemen in Nigeria are always on the threshold of death. I think the time has come for something to be done with a view to safeguarding their lives.

The other point is that there are no trade unions in the Police Force and that is very good indeed. But I think that some sort of organisation or association should be formed in this country, as obtains in Great Britain, of which our Sergeants, Inspectors, Chief Inspectors and even the Superintendents of Police could be members. This will enable them discuss matters of common interest to them. I am sure that this type of organisation or association will help the Police Force, especially with regard to the matter of their welfare, *et cetera*.

A Senator who spoke before me said something about the forthcoming Regional election in the Western Region. During the last Federal Election, policemen were posted to polling stations, but in spite of that some people were shot dead near polling booths, and these were the people who were going to cast their votes. Now it is being rumoured that worse things will happen during this present election.

**The President :** Order, order. The following message for the Prime Minister from the Premier of the North has reached me and I propose to read it to Senators :—

*Right hon. Prime Minister Lagos I am deeply touched by the messages of condolence conveyed to me through you by both the Senate and the House of Representatives on the death of our Colleague and Brother Alhaji Muhammadu Ribadu x I should be grateful if you would convey to them how much their kind gesture at this hour has been appreciated by me personally my Government and the entire people of the North x These and other similar messages received have further confirmed that the death of Alhaji Ribadu has been a great blow not only to myself the NPC. or the North as a whole but also to the entire Federation x We pray that the Almighty Allah will bestow his blessing on this devout muslim who has been*

[PRESIDENT]

*taken away from us so soon after his return from the holy pilgrimage x We are sad that we have lost him but as mortals we must remember that sooner or later we are bound to follow the same path x It is my earnest prayer that while we live we devote our life to the service of God and do all we can for good of mankind and that when the destined hour arrives Allah in his mercy will forgive and bless us x Sardauna Premier x*

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed—3 p.m.

**Senator Chief Egbuson :** Mr President, as I was saying this morning while talking about Regional elections, I am alarmed at the news that no Police will be tolerated this time. I should have thought that more Police would be asked for especially as the election will be centred in the West. More Police should be made available from the other Regions to help to keep law and order. I hope the authorities concerned will think about this.

Now, the traffic jam in Lagos is very well known, but I think in recent months this is being eradicated. During the road safety week, I saw the Police officer in charge of traffic in Lagos controlling traffic—I think his name is Lionel Finecountry—doing very good work indeed. He is a very energetic man with very strong physique.

There was a time when we had an expatriate officer in charge of traffic control in Lagos. This gentleman used to think that if he left this country traffic problem in Lagos would not be solved. I am very glad to see an African doing this job and doing much better.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** Senator Egbuson is not being fair to the man he is referring to.

**Senator Chief Egbuson :** One other thing I would like to say about the Police is that we do see so many high ranking police officers in Lagos. I think more of them should be posted out to the Provinces where there is much more work to be done. The Police in Lagos is top-heavy. They should go to the rural areas where they can very well concern themselves with crime prevention, if no crime is being committed. It is a much better job for the Police to prevent crime than to allow it to be committed and then chase the offenders, which is a more difficult thing.

Places like Sapele, Ughelli, Asaba *et cetera* in the Mid-West are well overdue for senior police officers of the rank of Chief Superintendent to man the police there and not newly promoted superior police officers with little or no experience. Even Police Divisions in places like Ondo, Ilesha and Ife are well overdue for Chief Superintendent posts.

My brother Senators from the Mid-West have said much about that Region—the baby Region of the country. Another thing which is very much lacking in the Mid-West is fire services. Whereas there are fire services or Fire Brigades in all the other Regions—there are Fire Brigades at Port Harcourt and perhaps Enugu in the East; there are Fire Brigades in Lagos, Ibadan and perhaps in the North—there is no fire service anywhere in the Mid-West.

**Senator E. I. Onewokae :** On a point of information, this is not a Federal concern. Fire services are established by the Regions.

**Senator Chief Egbuson :** I hope that in a very short time the Mid-West will have its own fire services to look after the incidence of fire accidents which may occur.

Side by side with the police are the prisons. Prisons officers do a specialised job and they should not be neglected; they should be attended to side by side with the police officers in the matter of pay and other benefits. The African head of that Department is doing very valuable work. He has crystalised the Prison Service within the short time he has headed that Department.

I would like to say a word about the Medical Department. I had a very pleasant experience during my first visit to the Lagos University Teaching Hospital in December 1963. I was very impressed with the courteous way and the ready manner in which the staff of that Institution attended to visitors. I happened to be a visitor and I was neither known there nor did I drive into the compound in a big limousine. I was just a stranger. It was not only myself who received that sort of treatment. Everybody who wandered there looking for information was attended to promptly and very courteously.

**The President :** The Senator has five more minutes.

**Senator Chief Egbuson :** I regret it very much to hear of the trouble that exploded in that University a few months ago.

**Senator Chief S. O. Longe :** On a point of information, the trouble in the University of Lagos does not affect the Lagos University Teaching Hospital.

**Senator Chief Egbuson :** The trouble in that University has been put on what might be called tribalism. This is a thing that we have been trying to eradicate in this country, but it looks as if it has come to stay. I would like to warn the warring tribes that if they do not stop this war of tribalism, other tribes may want to come in. The Mid-Westerners may want to have a share of this palaver; we do not want that to happen. So, I think it will be very wise of all concerned to try and put away their guns and matchets and try and work and show that we are one united country.

I know we are running for time, but I would like to talk on one or two other important matters. The first affects the Mid-West.

Before the Mid-West became a separate region an oil company known as the Shell BP, decided to site the oil refinery in the Eastern Region. Since a lot of oil has been found in great commercial quantities in the Mid-West by this oil company, and other oil companies as well, I do not see the reason why an oil refinery should not be sited in the Mid-West. Why should all the oil be taken to the Eastern Region for refining? We read in the newspapers that oil tankers have begun to come to the Mid-West to collect oil. I think the Ministry concerned should go into this matter and see the possibility of establishing another oil refinery in the Mid-West so that the oil found in that area may be refined there.

I would like to say a word or two about the Island of Fernando Po. We have heard many a times some unsavoury reports—

**The President :** The Senator has exhausted his time.

**Senator J. K. Nzerem :** I am going to be very brief and, therefore, Mr President will have to allow me to be sketchy in my speech.

Senators who have spoken before me have poured encomiums on the Minister of Finance, the indefatigable Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh. He has been said to be the compendium of information on our economic matters and problems. I agree. His ability, it has been pointed out, belies the premium placed on academic degrees. We must not, however, allow ourselves to be understood as implying that academic degrees are unnecessary. All that we say is that they should not be the only criterion for judging fitness for appointments in the Service.

Chief Okotie-Eboh was a very successful businessman ever before he entered politics. Although he is not a socialist, he is a capitalist, but a capitalist with a difference—he is a benevolent capitalist.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** That is pragmatic African socialism.

**Senator Nzerem :** He has given freely to political parties; he has given freely to charitable institutions and churches, including churches which are not his own. I think, in fact, he has given to the muslim religious organisation. So, I have every reason to call him a benevolent capitalist.

It is true that the Nigerian, nay, the African is by nature a socialist, but it is the pragmatic African socialism that we believe in, not the type of socialism practised in the Soviet Union. That is not our brand at all, because every Nigerian prides himself in his possession and in his children. So, while we want to be socialists or pragmatic socialists, we must rule out all ideas of state ownership as a means of production or distribution. We do not want that. It is un-African; it is un-Nigerian.

In his Budget Speech so ably delivered, the Minister of Finance said something about sacrifice and savings. I thought by the performance of the Federal Government in recent times that we have drifted away from all ideas of austerity. Recent happenings do not encourage one to believe that we still believe in austerity. But no matter how much we borrow, the economic salvation of this country is in the hands of the Nigerians. We must encourage internal savings and investment.



**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** On point of information, if I understand the Senator's idea of austerity then I will here and now file a Motion to reduce the salaries of Senators.

**Senator Nzerem :** I am coming to that. I mean that increased wages and increased spending are incompatible with the spirit of austerity. I do not say that civil servants should not be well looked after, but it is fantastic for anybody in this country to claim that a salary of £2,500 a year is not enough for him. We have civil servants in this country earning four thousand pounds. I just cannot reconcile our idea of austerity with all this ever-increasing salary.

Perhaps, when I come to suggest that all Ministers should be better paid, people might think that I am inconsistent. I am speaking honestly. I do think that our Ministers deserve more pay. After all, they are responsible for what happens in the country. If there is going to be any assassination, it will not be a civil servant who will be assassinated ; it will be a Minister of State. Whatever mistake the civil servant makes the Minister takes responsibility for it. I think that if we increase the salaries of Ministers to very reasonable amounts then we can reduce their allowances. If we pay them five thousand pounds, we can reduce the motor basic allowance which, I gather, is about eight or nine hundred pounds *per annum*. I am not quite sure of the figure, but I think that it is about £80 a month.

**The President :** And increase the allowances of Senators.

**Senator Nzerem :** No ! We might increase the salaries of Senators without increasing their allowances because they pay tax on their salaries but they do not pay tax on the allowances. That will not be in the interest of the country.

When I was talking, I did not quite finish what I had intended to say about Chief Okotie-Eboh. As I told you, I was only cracking a joke that he is not a socialist. I know that deep down in his heart, he has that desire for African pragmatic socialism. Chief Okotie-Eboh has won international reputation in finance matters. I think that his reputation will be boosted if the universities in this country would accord him an honorary doctorate degree in economics. We have five

universities in this country. What are they waiting for ? They have accorded honorary degrees to many responsible Nigerians, those who, I think, do not deserve the honorary degrees as much as Chief Okotie-Eboh does. So, I am appealing to the universities of this country to see to it at once that Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh is accorded the recognition which he deserves by being given an honorary doctorate degree in economics.

Now, the Minister of Finance, Chief Okotie-Eboh, said something about our imbalance of trade. His learned discussion about the balance of payment and balance of trade—I just cannot understand it—was too technical for a layman like me. But may I ask, what are the causes of this our imbalance of trade and imbalance of payment—call it what you may like to call it ? I think that some of the causes are not far to seek. We have a country like Japan from whom we buy goods to the value of perhaps three million pounds or perhaps ten million pounds.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** About twenty-one million pounds a year. They do not buy from us up to two million pounds.

**Senator Nzerem :** Twenty-one million pounds we send to Japan every year ! Why can we not stop buying or importing Japanese goods ? We should not be playing the gentleman all the time. Well, now, our policy should be "do me, I do you." With this policy, if the Japanese will not buy from us, we should stop buying their goods. We can trade with any other country for that matter. We can correct our imbalance of trade by insisting on giving to any country from whom we buy as much as we can offer. If any country is not prepared to do that, then it should be goodbye to its trade. We can go to some other places.

There is another matter which I want to touch upon. I was taken aback this morning when I heard that there was no co-ordination in setting up our industries in the country. If I may ask, what is our National Economic Council for ? I think it is for such matters. If we have a cement industry in the East, the Mid-West will want to have a cement industry, the West will want to have a cement industry, the North will want a cement industry. If we have an oil industry here, it will be wanted there. It will be wanted everywhere. Where shall we get to with this cut throat competition ?

I do not say that we have reached the saturation point yet as far as the setting up of industries is concerned. We have not by any means reached the saturation point. All we have to do at present is to set up one industry in the East or in the North or in the West or in the Mid-West and let it supply all the Regions until we see that it is making profit sufficient to make it stand on its feet. Then we can duplicate the industry in other Regions. At present, this cut-throat competition which is beginning to rear its ugly head should be discouraged. It is nothing other than the wasteful use of our resources. I am appealing to the Government to try as much as it can to see that there is co-ordination and planning in the setting up of industries in Nigeria.

I think that the Minister of Finance, in introducing his Budget, said that he was expecting a revenue of one hundred and sixty million pounds this financial year.

**The President :** I think that we still have one, two, three or four separate Bills not yet debated which must be passed to-day. We have not even come near to the end of this one. I think that we can have gentlemen's agreement to go fast on this matter.

**Senator Nzerem :** I want to wind up on this matter. Is that satisfactory?

**Several Senators :** Yes.

**Senator Nzerem :** Just one other matter and that is about Education. I gather that teachers have given an ultimatum to the Federal Government about their conditions of service. Why must the Government always wait until the poor teachers rise up in rebellion before they listen to them? Why cannot the Government give the teachers what they have given to others? It is taking the Government two years for the teachers' case to be heard. I think that that is not fair to those who are looking after the coming generation of Nigeria.

I want to respect the President's feeling about being brief and so, I beg to support the Appropriation Bill.

**Senator Rev. A. M. Olaleye :** If we continue to give encomiums to our able Finance Minister, it will not be too much because I feel that he deserves all the praises and all the honours that have been given to him because of the sincere work which he is doing.

The Minister of Finance has presented to this House the Appropriation Bill in a unique manner. He has set up the programme to cater for the national economy of the nation, in such a way that attracts everybody. This great, energetic and devoted man is an embodiment of hard work. He is straightforward and honest to the core.

However, I would like to make a few observations under the following headings :

**Agriculture :** It has been emphasised from time to time that the economic stability of the nation depends very much upon our attitude to the soil. Many sermons and many speeches have been made in this regard, but nevertheless it seems as if there must be a reorientation of our educational content. This is prompted by the fact that many of our young people do not like to go back to the land. I teach in a grammar school, for instance, and I can say that when you put questions to the students about the type of profession they would want to pursue, you will find that one out of ten might say he has an inclination for agricultural education. This means that we are bound to reorientate the content of our educational programme in Nigeria so that our people may have the aptitude and the desire to go back to the soil.

I do not think for a moment, that Senators would like to go back to the soil at this stage of their lives, because if they did they might have heart attack, backache, *et cetera*. But in reorientating our educational system I would suggest that the Government should consider the advisability of setting up vocational guidance centres where our young people can be guided as to the kind of profession they want to pursue.

There is no doubt that if somebody goes into agriculture voluntarily, he is going to gain much out of it. Those of us who have been privileged to sojourn in America (I think the President of the Senate will bear me out in this) know that the farmers are the wealthiest set of people in America. They do just grow yams or corns, but they raise cattle and livestock in addition to many other farm produce.

**Education :** I would like to say a word on this, even though much has been said about it previously. The people in the rural areas do not benefit from the Government's yearly

[SENATOR REVEREND OLALEYE]  
scholarship awards. Those of us who come from the backward areas know too well that the people there have not the privilege of enjoying as much benefits as those in the cities. Therefore, I am appealing to the Federal Government to do something about this matter.

*Communications* : My point on this relates to the provision of telephone facilities. My home town is some 204 miles away from the Federal capital. It is quite a distance, and those of us from Oyo, particularly from the North-East or North-West part of it, have not been privileged to have telephone facilities.

In one place—Shaki—a telephone office site was selected seven years ago. Three years ago the Government sent out a surveyor to survey the place and we thought then that telephone would be forthcoming. Last year, the surveyor came again and we had to ask him when the Government was going to instal a telephone service in that area. He said nothing, but deposited some instruments in the building site, which instruments have been lying waste at the site up to the moment.

I humbly appeal to the Government to consider the advisability of installing some telephone in Oyo Division, especially in the North-Eastern or North-Western part of the area. We are really cut away from the community. Back home we are in a kind of separate world by ourselves.

The same thing is applicable to the provision of post offices. All we have in that area are postal agencies, and we now feel that that area deserves at least one main post office.

*Research* : Oyo Division is a mountainous area, and we do not feel that we have been punished by the Divine Lord to have stones all over the place. We nurse the feeling that there must be something underneath the mountains and hills, which is why we would like to appeal to the Government to consider the advisability of carrying out some research in that area. By so doing it might be possible to get something that would add to the wealth of the nation.

*Transport* : In this regard, I have in mind the railways. Several years before I was born, as the story told me goes, there was a paramount chief who disliked the idea of a railway line passing through his domain because he felt

that if it did, the railways would carry away all his wives. That was the reason told me why the railway line did not pass through my Division. That might be true at that particular time, but at the present time I want to say that we need the railway line. If the authorities want to carry away our wives along with them, they can carry away as many of them as they choose. That does not bother us any longer.

*Banking Facility* : The nearest bank to the areas bordering Oyo North-West and Oyo North-East is 81 miles away, and this has been causing a lot of trouble. I do not know how to go about this matter, so I wonder whether the Minister of Finance can help us out in this. We really need a bank in one of the big towns in that area to enable us transact our business efficiently.

*Teachers' Service Condition* : Although this matter has been raised a few minutes ago, I just want to add a word or two on the teachers' service conditions. It has been my feeling that the Senate as well as the House of Representatives do not take kindly to the plight of teachers. I make this point because one would see that any time the teachers made some demands of the Government, a sort of delay tactics was resorted to until the teachers were pushed to the wall. I think it will be doing the nation a good service if teachers are considered along with the other workers in the review of service conditions.

As teachers, we are willing to continue to teach, because some of us have accepted teaching as our life job and we shall live by it. But it is difficult to give a reasonable lecture with an empty stomach. Many of us have tried to do it, but we now find that it is impossible. So I appeal to the Government to see to it that the service conditions of teachers are improved.

I beg to support.

**Senator H. O. Abaagu** : Enough praises have been showered on the Minister of Finance, and for that reason I will go straightaway to make my points. And in any case I am one with those who have praised him.

If I understood the Minister correctly, I think he said that the financial position of the Republic is neither too good nor too bad. If it is not too good, what is the need of creating

unnecessary means of draining our economic resources?

By this I have in mind the size of the recently announced Cabinet. Why should Nigeria have as many as 80 members in the Cabinet? I quite understand the spirit behind that, of course, since it may well be that the Prime Minister was tempted by—

**The President :** Do I understand the hon. Gentleman to say that we have 80 or 8 Ministers in the Cabinet?

**Senator Abaagu :** I mean 80, that is including the Parliamentary Secretaries.

I consider the size of the Cabinet too large for a young republic of Nigeria's size. I have never heard of any country in Africa having a government of this size.

**Minister of State (Senator Chief J. I. G. Onyia) :** It would appear that some Senators are taking notes from the Members of the Lower House and are labouring under misapprehension in connection with the names "Cabinet", "Ministers" and the rest of them. It is time people realised the difference between these words.

Among Ministers, there are those of Cabinet rank and there are those of non-Cabinet rank. When we talk of Ministers in the Cabinet, we must know what the number is. Ministers of non-Cabinet rank are not, properly speaking, in the Cabinet. Furthermore, though Parliamentary Secretaries may be designated Junior Ministers, but they cannot properly be designated as members of the Cabinet or Ministers. Let us therefore distinguish between all these people.

My Friend, Senator Abaagu, said that he had never heard of a government composed of about 80 Ministers. I believe that this is what he wanted to say. If this is so, I would ask him to call to memory the recent appointment of Ministers in the Labour Government of Britain. The Ministers in that Government are over 100.

**Senator Abaagu :** I said that I had never heard of a government in Africa that is composed of about 80 Ministers. I was particular on Africa and not on any other continent.

In any case, I think that the Cabinet is too large for Nigeria, with due respect to my old Friend, Senator Chief Onyia, who deserves

his appointment because he is representing one of the most important tribes in Nigeria—the Ika tribe.

I would suggest that a handful of qualified and reasonable people, representative of all the Regions in the country, would be enough. If the Government wants to include certain people, of course, there are other places where such people can be put. Such other people could be ambassadors or such other overseas jobs. There is therefore no need bringing all these people into a Government in which they have no voice. I think the majority of the Ministers are not of Cabinet rank. What is the need of appointing somebody as a Minister when he cannot attend Cabinet meetings? This is just a case of creating jobs for the "boys" and this is exactly what I mean. It is a case of finding jobs for the "boys" at the expense of the country.

There is another danger ahead and that is the elections in the Western Region. I think that it is high time the Government tried to devise some means of ensuring that elections and election campaigns are devoid of thuggery and hooliganism. It was to this end that I suggested that all the people in each Region should belong to only one party so as to avoid all these political squabbles. And for this I would like to congratulate the members of the M.D.F. in the Mid-Western Region for joining the Government Party there. I would even call on the Dynamic Party, the Republican Party and any other party in opposition in the Eastern House of Assembly to join the N.C.N.C. Similarly, I would call on the parties in opposition in the North—the U.M.B.C. and the N.E.P.U.—to join with the N.P.C., and in fact if the Action Group and the N.N.D.P. would co-operate and join together there would be no fear of any danger looming ahead in view of the elections in the West.

Unless we avoid this problem of duplication of parties, killing and fighting ourselves, we shall be nowhere. I therefore suggest that all these political squabbles in the country should be stopped. If we are convinced that this particular party is good, let us join it irrespective of our Region of origin or tribal affiliation. After all, there is none of the political parties in this country that is bad. The A.G. is quite good. The N.C.N.C. is quite good. The N.P.C. is quite good.

**Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku :** Senator Abaagu is not relevant. We are not discussing political parties as such, but he is discussing political parties.

**The President :** Will Senator Abaagu please be relevant.

**Senator Abaagu :** Mr President, I beg to support.

**The President :** I would say that Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku is responsible for Senator Abaagu withdrawing all the other points he had wanted to make !

**Senator Chief F. G. Ojehonmon :** I rise not only to support the Second Reading of this Bill but also to make some observations on it. In doing so, however, I would first of all associate myself with the encomiums and tributes showered on our son, the Minister of Finance, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh, for his good work and services to the Federal Government. Chief Okotie-Eboh can be likened to honey. Who can say that honey is not sweet ? From the very beginning, his services have always been good and not only in connection with the Mid-West and the Federal Government but also in connection with his contacts with the world as a whole.

Our time to debate this Bill, as we have been told, is very limited, but I have just two observations to make. One is in relation to the Posts and Telegraphs Department which is now going to be called the Telecommunications Department. Anybody who goes to the post office to buy stamps or postal orders will see the difficulties to be experienced before getting served. People queue to buy postal orders, money orders and stamps in particular, but very often for a long time they are not served. One would often see some boys behind the counter who, while the business is suffering, are busy chatting, and when these boys are called upon to help they show an attitude of indifference.

Things were not like this at our time when the P & T. was called "Palavers and Troubles". In those days no member of the public was allowed to suffer for lack of services in the post office. Any counter clerk who was found guilty of such an offence was issued with a

query, and not only was he issued with a query, but he was also fined. But nowadays I do not think there is any discipline in the post office.

In the case of telegrams, we suffer too much delay in getting them forwarded. When we send telegrams they take too long to reach their destinations. I remember sending one telegram to Nsukka sometime ago, and I arrived there after nine days before the telegram.

I am therefore appealing to the Minister of Communications, though he is not here now, that these boys and girls at the counters in the post offices should be well disciplined. It is my belief that the standard of discipline there has fallen too much, otherwise all these complaints would not arise. If they do not want to do the work, they should be removed and other more willing people put in their place.

The second point I want to raise is the question of pension. Everybody looks forward to a date when he will leave his place of work for good and go back home and rest, earning and enjoying his pension. We heard all about the Morgan Commission Award for the workers. Many public servants have been paid this award. But I do not think anybody who is a pensioner has been paid this award.

I am appealing to the President and the Minister concerned to see to it that pensioners are paid their own award. It is often said that "if you do not say I am, nobody will say thou art". Those who have spent the better part of their lives working for their country should not be forgotten in matters of awards. The labourer is entitled to enjoy the fruits of his labour. But I regret to say that in this case no mention has been made of the pensioners.

**Minister of State (Senator Chief J. I. G. Onyia) :** It is because they buy from a different market !

**Senator Chief Ojehomon :** But we do not buy from a different market. Having made these points and considering the fact that time is limited, I beg to support the Bill.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I feel very sorry for the Senators who have not had the opportunity to speak, but we really have more business to do this evening.

In replying to the very witty and constructive speeches made by Senators I would like to say how humble I feel for the kind things said about me and my Ministry by the Senators. I would like to feel that they, as one of the leaders of this country and the fathers of this country, will continue to pray for us so that we shall continue to be of true and honest service to our great country in order to make Nigeria not only the most populous country in Africa by name, but in substance.

This is the first time I have been privileged to appear before this Senate since the new Government was formed. I would like to seize this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr President, for being re-elected as President of this House. I am sure that everywhere in the world, and judging from the standard of what I have seen in the Legislatures all over the world, we have every reason to thank God that after the departure of the first President of the Senate, now the President of this Republic, and the second President of the Senate who is now the Premier of the Mid-Western Region, we have had another square peg in a square hole as the President of this Senate. My only Prayer is that I do not know whether a new region should be carved out for you, Mr President, to become premier.

I do know that this should not be the highest that you can attain because I have known you personally as a friend and a nationalist of the highest order who would speak his mind under any circumstance, no matter whose ox is gored, and one of the foremost people who have shown what a Nigerian or an African is capable of doing.

In the same breath, I would like to congratulate the old Senators who have been returned to this House. I am sure their experience and maturity of debate will be imparted to the new Members. But above all, I congratulate them for the fact that this time they have had more of the Senators being appointed as Ministers of State, both of Cabinet and of non-Cabinet rank. I begin to wonder, when the Senators still have to feel that they are not well cared for, whether they forget that they have amongst them Ministers of State with portfolio and Ministers of State without portfolio, and of Cabinet rank and of non-Cabinet rank.

Speaking for the Prime Minister, myself and my Colleagues, we all hold the Senators in very high esteem and we know what you are contributing to the stability and progress of Nigeria. No reasonable person will say that the creation of the Upper House is not a credit to Nigeria. It is not only a credit, but has raised the prestige of Nigeria abroad. One would find from the debates in this House that there are more experts here than there are in the Lower House. There are pensioners here. There are experts from the Police, experts from the Posts and Telegraphs and even experts from the Church.

This notwithstanding, you have the privilege of having two lady Senators among you. We in the Lower House envy you. We very much hope our women will stand elections in future and be elected to the Lower House, so that we can also fraternise with our ladies.

Having said this, I would like to touch on one or two points that have been made by Senators. But before doing this I would like to assure Senators that we do not just throw aside the Senate *Hansard*. They are sent to the different Ministries and the points Senators make are given very serious consideration. So, whether or not I reply to all of them, Senators can rest assured that my Colleagues who are concerned with the points raised will look very carefully into them and see that we do our best to meet, as far as possible, some of the demands of the Senators. But I should mention our comment on one or two of the points.

The first point that was made by Senator Chief Idowu was whether the increase of Ministers would mean increase of expenditure by way of increased employment of civil servants. If I may say so, with respect, we are crying of unemployment. If avenues are created for more of our sons and daughters—no expatriates—now to be employed, is that a bad thing?

I am happy several Senators answered in the negative. Certainly it is not a bad thing at all. But I want to assure Senators that we have been able to attain sound Estimates this year without unnecessary increase or deficit in our Budget, in that we will find that the contribution to the Consolidated Revenue Fund is over £10 million. This year we budgeted for an increase

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of about £60 million. It is true to say that there is increase in emoluments, but it cannot be helped.

Nigeria is a big country. That takes me to the point made by Senator Abaagu that we have eighty Ministers and that it is too much. We should look at it from two points: from the point of economic stability as well as political stability.

From the economic point of view, we must have more people to do more work as we increase Ministries—Agriculture, Trade and Industries. We cannot stand still. Many industries are coming into the country. The country is being developed. The ports are developed. More trade is coming. Are we expected to remain static? Certainly not.

From the political point of view, we all know the history of some independent states in Africa, how much brothers have been set against brothers, sisters against sisters. In a Federation like Nigeria, it is my considered opinion that if the price of uniting the people together is to make every Region feel that they belong to the Federal Government, then eighty Ministers is not too much a price to pay for it. (*Hear, hear.*) No matter what is said, if there is a unit in this country that is not participating in the Government, let any political party win election and then that political party belongs to one or two Regions and keeps out the other Regions from the Federal Cabinet, do Senators think that this country will be united?

**Several Senators :** No.

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** It can never be. Even the minorities still feel that they have not had enough. They want to belong, they want to know what is going on in the Federal Government. It should not be a closed shop. I feel that the decision by the President and the Prime Minister after the crisis to set up a broadly-based Government in which more people will participate and feel that they belong to Nigeria and to keep the country together is not to be termed any kind of squandermania.

Senators have spoken about the defence expenditure. I think Senators will agree that Nigeria must be built in all its ramifications. We must have an Army, an Air Force and Security Force that befit our population and our size. Therefore, we must modernise the

Army. This is not the age in which people will fight with dane guns. And we are talking about the security of the Police, *et cetera*. If the ordinary burglar is armed with a rifle that can fire about four times, should the Police not have one that can fire about twelve times, and the Army much more?

The increase in our defence expenditure goes a long way to solve the problem of unemployment. Only yesterday, in the Lower House, a hon. Member said that school-leavers who have no jobs should be recruited into the Army so that, at least, they can have a source of earning something until they can get out and do something else.

I think it is a wise thing on the part of Government to defend our shores against enemies. What we pray to God that we should not have in Nigeria is internal disruption that will enable our Armed Forces to raise arms to kill our brothers and sisters in Nigeria. That is what we pray to God not to have in Nigeria. Nigeria has no territorial ambition, but if anyone dare think that his country can challenge Nigeria, I think Senators will agree that we should meet force with force and vanquish the enemy from our doors. (*Hear, hear.*)

One of the very intelligent points contributed was by Senator Chief Ngiangia. He supported me in speaking about industry control. Industry is in the concurrent list and the Federal Government cannot legislate to the disadvantage of any Region. I am sure I speak the untrammelled minds of Senators when I say that although we cannot control industry, we must not allow industry in one Region to be in competition with another, because by our Constitution we have no Regional barriers for our trade and we should not establish industries to the extent that people will begin to look at cement to see where it is manufactured, whether it is in Sapele or Enugu or Kaduna. As long as we compete within ourselves, what the respected Senator called "cut-throat", the whole economy will be shattered into smithereens. That is why I am happy that this point that I made in my speech had been well taken by Senators.

Senator Chief Ngiangia spoke of control of imports. With respect, this is not a good thing to do. It has been tested and found that once you control imports you drive the

trade underground and then you have what I will call "white" market and not "black" market. Few people will have the opportunity of getting the goods and putting them in their bed-rooms, double or treble the price of the goods. What we are trying to do is to put what we call "protective duty". That is to say, if goods are sufficiently manufactured in Nigeria, we try to stop the importation or the inflow into the country of such goods by putting a prohibitive tariff on it so that the goods that come into the country would cost more than the ones produced in Nigeria.

Sometimes, industrialists have disappointed me personally. Our people want to buy goods that are produced in Nigeria. First of all, they must be first-class goods produced in Nigeria and, secondly, once they are given permission by the Government, the prices must be reasonable for the ordinary man to buy. This I can assure Senators I have been looking into, and if we find that anyone wants to take advantage of the protection given by the Government to the industry to cheat the members of the public, we have no alternative than to withdraw such protection from such industry.

Senators spoke about our efforts on agriculture. There is no doubt that this is the common thing said by everybody. Again, it is regional responsibility. But we cannot shirk our responsibility as the Federal Government, so, we have given assistance and we are making research. I agree that the Federal Government should come much more in consultation with the Regional Governments to see that our system of agriculture is mechanised and improved.

Senators spoke about teachers' salaries. I want to say this. It is a very delicate and explosive subject at this time. But I want to state the difficulty of the Federal Government. The Federal Government is responsible for teachers in the Federal Universities and the Federal territory only. The majority of the teachers are employees of the voluntary agencies and the Governments of the Regions. If we are to take a unilateral decision here and increase or do something to the salaries of teachers in Lagos, when the Governments of the Regions are not in agreement with us, we will be causing more trouble than we have now.

At the moment, my Colleague the Minister of Education is in consultation with the Regional Governments to consider the report that has been submitted. All we can say is that Senators who are teachers should please counsel their colleagues for patience. I can assure them that this matter is being looked into.

Senator (Mrs) Kerry spoke about hostel to train women and children, and that we should encourage women organisations. I want to assure her that we are already encouraging women organisations and, in so far as our responsibilities are concerned in Lagos, we are also giving grants to young women organisations for the building of hostels, *et cetera*.

Here again, social services are mostly for the Regions and we cannot compel any Region. But I think I can say that the Governments of the Regions are also doing their best. The only trouble with women is that they are sometimes impatient, with great respect to the lady Senator.

Senator Nzerem raised the question of austerity. The position in this country is that many people feel that we can eat our cake and have it. In many developing country, the people must suffer certain deprivations. We have decided that our aim, both of the Federal and Regional Governments, should be to raise the standard of living of the people.

When workers ask for increased wages and they are given the increased wages, and the standard of living of the people starts to rise, what do we find? We find that the demand for more consumer goods and more luxury goods is high. As soon as a man or a woman is earning say £50, £70 or £80, first of all he or she would wish to have a car and then television and radio sets, *et cetera*. With all that, what do Senators expect us to do? The workers will then say that their salaries are not enough. How can the money be enough?

Unless one is determined to forgo some of the things one requires, it will be impossible for one to make any savings. This idea of thrift should be inculcated into the minds of the youths of to-day, that it is only when one can keep something outside and deprive oneself of certain things that one can hope to have some savings in the bank, no matter what one



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is. Even millionaires have gone broke in the United States, United Kingdom and other places. As long as one is unable to control one's expenditure in accordance with one's income, then the elementary principle of economics has been murdered and one will have to liquidate, whether one likes it or not.

That brings in the question concerning the request by Senators that we should bring banks or other methods of saving to rural areas. I agree with that completely. Senators will agree that the only handicap the banks have is the question of finding trustworthy personnel for establishing the banks. If I tell you the experience of Post Office Savings, you will be alarmed. Youngmen—(I do not want to malign anybody) but I am speaking the truth to this House, that the way Government funds are embezzled in the rural areas by some, I repeat some, isolated civil servants does not make it possible for us to expand this facility for savings to the rural areas as we would like to do. We want the indigenous banks to come into this field and establish their banks in the rural areas. But here again what do we find? Armed robbers in broad day light, even in a place like Ibadan, carrying away the money from the counter! This is because our people go to cinema and get corrupted by the practice carried out elsewhere.

Senators should preach these things to the people and churches should preach against these evils because we are just a developing country, and unless we suffer some hardship, we will not be able to develop our country.

In some countries, the President knows, certain manufactured goods are for exports only and nobody in the country is allowed to buy and make use of them because the goods are of a better quality. They are expected to bring in money from outside. If we do so in Nigeria, people will say that it is only the Ministers that want to ride in limousine. "Where is the Senator? I do not know where he kept his limousine when he went to the Lagos University Teaching Hospital". (Laughter.)

These are some of the points that have been raised and which are quite constructive of this House. I want to assure Senators that we shall look into this matter and we shall be looking forward to seeing you all from time to time

because of your matured experience and advice which I am sure will be of great benefit to the Government.

Finally, I want to say that I was deeply touched by the expression of sympathy expressed to the Prime Minister and to my humble self because I have been hard-hit by the loss of my great, respected, beloved brother and friend. I do not want to be emotional. I do not want to feel that I should be thinking of it now because I will continue to think about it all the days of my life.

I want to thank Senators for all what was said about him. He was a great man and one of the pillars of Nigeria and one that I know has united Nigeria for a long time. His place will be very difficult to fill.

Let me therefore set all of you thinking, and I quote in the words of Grey's eulogy—

*The curfew tolls the knell of parting day,  
The lonely path winds slowly o'er the lee,  
The ploughman homeward ploughs his weary way.*

*And leaves the world to darkness and to me.*

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill read a Second time.*

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

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.*

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1963-64) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read*

**Chief Okotie-Eboh :** I have it in command from His Excellency the President to move

That a Bill entitled "A Bill for an Act to authorise the issue out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of Four Hundred and Thirty-Five Thousand Nine hundred and twenty-three pounds for the purpose of making further provision for the service of the year which ended on the thirty-first day of March, One Thousand, Nine Hundred and Sixty-four; and to appropriate that sum for the purposes specified in this Act," be read a Second time.

Senators are already aware that in his report laid on the table of this House at the last meeting, the Director of Federal Audit disclosed that during 1963-64, Parliamentary approval was not received for expenditure amounting to £435,923 incurred on five Heads of the approved Estimates. The five Heads are listed in the Bill for the Supplementary Appropriation (1963-64) Act, 1965 now before you.

It will be recalled that the first time compulsory savings were applied in all expenditure sub-heads, except Head 21—State House and a more determined effort was made to resist attempts to request Parliament to appropriate supplementary expenditure. Despite all these very stringent measures, excesses existed on only five Heads. In fact I will explain later to this House that after preliminary investigations by officials of my Ministry, I am satisfied that only excesses on two of the five Heads required further investigations. I am satisfied that, on the whole, there is considerable awareness among all officers responsible for public spending of the importance of control of expenditure and there is no doubt that there has been considerable improvement towards more effective control of expenditure.

Consequent on Government's decisions last year affecting the grading and salary structure of the Armed Forces, my Colleague, the Minister of Defence, and myself together with officials of our two Ministries, discussed the financial implications of the decisions on the Armed Forces. Although we arrived at an estimated level of additional provision required, it was technically impossible to obtain the necessary authority from Parliament. It is gratifying to note that, owing to very prudent management, the Army and the Navy were able to keep the level of additional provision required to about half of the estimated additional requirements. The Regions derive their shares of the revenue from General Excise Revenue, mineral water, and live animals birds and reptiles, from appropriations under Head 65—Non-Statutory Appropriations of Revenue. It will be seen from the Accountant-General's report on the 1963-64 Accounts already distributed to Members that more revenue than was anticipated was derived from these sources. It was therefore necessary that

the Regions should have a corresponding increase in their shares. The excess under this Head is, therefore, a technical one.

My Ministry is still investigating the excesses without Parliamentary authority under the remaining two Heads—Cabinet Office and Prisons. If after investigations I am satisfied that there are sufficient reasons for disciplinary action to be considered, my Ministry will not hesitate to make appropriate recommendations to the Federal Public Service Commission.

I beg to move.

**Minister of State** (Onyiba Aja Nwachuku):  
I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read a Second time.*

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

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.*

#### PRISONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**Minister of State** (M. Akubakar Isandu):  
I beg to move—

That a Bill for an Act to amend the Prisons Act 1960 be now read a Second time.

This is a non-controversial Bill. The purpose of it is to enable Assistant Directors of Prisons to give consent to the transfer of prisoners from Native Authority or Local Government prisons or lock-ups to Federal Government prisons. At present it is only the Director who is empowered by the Prisons Act 1960 to give such consent. It is considered for obvious reasons that this power should also be properly vested in the Assistant Director of Prisons who is responsible for the prison to which the prisoner is to be transferred.

Sir, I beg to move.

**Minister of State** (Chief J. I. G. Onyia):  
I beg to second.

**Senator Chief E. U. Uti :** I am grateful for being offered the opportunity to speak on this matter. I happened to have paid a visit to the prison premises recently. When I got there I was very much surprised to see where prisoners live here in Lagos at Obalende. So, I feel that prisoners are not well treated.

Sir, you know that the job of Warders is very delicate because they guard the criminals. For that reason I feel that they must be looked after properly so as to enable them do their job efficiently and effectively. Warders are always in danger because all the criminals in the country are kept under their custody. In view of that, it will be a very good thing if we give serious consideration to both their salaries and accommodation. I feel that the Ministry concerned should investigate this properly and do its best to ensure that they run in line with the police officers, and that they are provided with accommodation of modern type.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

**Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku :** I just have a short observation to make. Sir, the spirit of the Bill is quite all right, but I would like to be assured that the delegation of this power to Assistant Directors is quite proper. I feel that at the time when the power was retained exclusively by the Director of Prisons, it served the country well, particularly where it involves the transfer of a prisoner from a Federal prison to a Native Authority prison or *vice versa*.

I still feel that it will be a good idea if even the Assistant Directors are delegated with the power to transfer, it should be with the knowledge and approval of the Director to ensure that unfortunate people who are sent to prisons are not further penalised unduly.

That is the only observation I want to make on this Bill.

**Senator Chief A. O. Airewele :** Mr President, this Bill is non-controversial in that it adds to the prisoners' welfare when transferred from a lock-up sometimes from a place where they are not well treated, to a better place.

One other thing I observe in the Prisons Department is that some of the prisoners who are in hospitals and sometimes very unconscious are still chained. I feel that as long as the Warders are sitting by a prisoner, and where

he is really very sick, he should be relieved of that distress, otherwise he may die in chains. This measure should only be used when there are no Warders in attendance or when a prisoner is not in a serious condition.

I think an amendment should be made to this effect, Sir. I beg to support.

**Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu :** This Bill is not one of the controversial Bills. It is welcome indeed, because most of the prisoners themselves at times do not like to remain in their places of origin. There may be somebody who is imprisoned, say, in Lagos and he may apply to be transferred to either Ibadan, Port Harcourt, Aba or anywhere, or even within the same Province or Division.

Now that this Bill has come, it means that the Government is knowing what is happening in the rural areas and what the people think. So, in my humble opinion, this Bill is welcome and I support it.

**Senator J. K. Nzerem :** This is a straight forward Bill—an amendment to the principal Act. I think there is nothing anybody can quarrel with in the Bill. In fact, you will see that this Amendment is very long overdue because Section 2, subsection (3) says that—

*This Act shall be deemed to have come into force on 28th December, 1960.*

So, the Bill is really long overdue.

It is a small matter for an Assistant Director to be delegated with that power. In fact, the non-existence of this provision had caused a lot of inconvenience to the Prisons authorities in the past, so that the introduction of the amendment is very welcome.

Perhaps it is a suitable time to pay tribute to the work that is being done by the present holder of the Directorship of the Prisons Department. In the colonial days, white men thought that nobody could do that job. It was our disciplined force that first came under the direct management of a Nigerian and the holder of the post, Mr Giwa-Osagie, has proved himself equal to the task.

Anyone who knew our prisons twenty years ago would be surprised at the tremendous change that has taken place. I would particularly like to commend the work of Mr Giwa-Osagie on the welfare side of the warders.

Nearly everywhere in this country, he has built warders' clubs. The warders, after doing the tedious work of minding the prisoners, can go to their clubs and relax. That does them a good deal of good.

I also note with satisfaction the present improvement in the condition of service of warders. They had always been on parity as regards salaries with police men. But recently policemen were given increases which were not reflected in the warders' grades, but now, I understand, according to the Estimate, that the Government has done something for them. The Senior Superintendents are now called "Chief Superintendents" and the Assistant Directors have been up-graded. The Director himself has been up-graded. That is very, very good. I think that anything done for the good of the warders and the senior officers of the Prison Department is very welcome indeed.

I beg to support.

*Whereupon the Minister of State. (Chief J. I. G. Onyia) rose in his place and claimed to move, That the Question be now put.*

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

*Main Question put accordingly and agreed to.*

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

PRISONS (AMENDMENT) BILL :  
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

*Clause 1—(AMENDMENT OF SECTION 31 (2) OF PRISONS ACT).*

**Senator Chief A. O. Fagbenro-Beyioku :** I would like the honourable Minister to give some sort of assurance in respect of the operation of the particular clause, especially where a lower officer will now have to exercise the powers of deciding who should be transferred from one prison to another. I have in mind transfers from the Federal prisons to native authority prisons and *vice versa*. I do not know whether the Minister is aware that most of these things have been done in the past. In view of the fact that this Act is to operate as from April 1960, I would particularly like

to be sufficiently informed on that aspect and assurance given that the power will not be misused.

**Minister of State (Mr Akubakar Isandu) :** I had wanted to say something of this nature referring to what Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku wants to know. I do not think that this Bill has been in operation since the date he mentioned. I think that it is the Parliamentary practice that whenever a Bill of this nature is enacted it should be back-dated. The only thing that this Bill seeks to do is to be a one-way traffic and not to act *vice versa* as the Senator said. This was not the position before. It used to be that if the question arose, the Director or the Assistant Director of the prison concerned would write to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the particular Region. When the letter was submitted to my Ministry, we used to pass it to the Director and then it went through the same way. We think that that involves a lot of correspondence. The Bill seeks to remove the anomalies.

The Director does not oppose or hesitate to take action on such things. We think that the Assistant Director should be given the right to do what is just simple. That is the only thing.

Somebody spoke about the ill-treatment of prisoners. I do not think that there will be any ill-treatment. Somebody said that he wanted to be assured that the people would be properly treated. Transfers are done according to the normal practice.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku :** In that case, I think that I am assured that whatever happens, it will be just a sort of recommendation from the Assistant Director to the Minister of Internal Affairs in the particular Region and perhaps ultimately to the Minister of Internal Affairs in the Federal Territory. This means that what the Assistant Director or the Director does in this particular matter is more or less to make a recommendation to the Minister of Internal Affairs. I feel that I am correct.

*Clause 1—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 2—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Bill reported, without Amendment; read the Third time and passed.*

[MINISTER OF EDUCATION]

The Association also assisted the experts who made the preliminary investigations on the setting up of the University of Lagos. It now publishes an Accountants Journal for its members and students and is currently working on a standard Text Book on Nigeria Income Tax.

The Association has, in fact, emerged as a central organisation for Accountants and Auditors in Nigeria, has inspired and kept, at the same time, a high standard of professional ethics. Also, it has assisted and advised, on many occasions not only the various organs of the Government, but has, in fact, extended its services to other public and private bodies desiring them.

The Association will now be absorbed in the new Institute which, I trust, will continue from where it stopped. Finally, it is my sober hope that the Institute will develop the dynamism necessary to make the profession progressively responsible to the increasingly complex and sophisticated needs of a fast-growing business community in the country.

I beg to move.

**Minister of State** (Senator Chief J. I. G. Onyia) : I beg to second.

**Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku** : Mr President, this is a very good Bill and it is welcome by all. We all know the position of practising accountants in this country to-day, and from all angles and for all purposes, this country has every reason to be thankful to God and to rejoice for the progress Nigerian citizens are making.

Anybody who has been connected with either the Government departments or the Mercantile houses as far back as twenty years ago, might perhaps have been a little bit pessimistic as to whether a time would ever come in Nigeria when an Institute, the type of which is now being set up under this Bill, would have to be inaugurated, and not only inaugurated but also receive Government sanction.

Why would this pessimism hold in the person's mind? The reason is that most of practising accountants in those days were expatriates. They were Europeans who dominated the accountancy profession and even though some Africans, through hard

work and intuition, happened to be engaged in the accountancy business, there was no recognition for them. But as time went on, more Africans started going into the profession and we had one or two who qualified as chartered accountants and members of the Royal Institute of Accountants.

But even then, these Africans were not recognised. The expatriates were still dominating the profession, and this sort of situation continued, I would say, till only about five years ago. We have always had a lot of accountants in this country but we never give recognition to their proficiency. There are only one or two of them, for example, Messrs Akintola Williams and Company, of whom we have always been hearing, but of the others nothing was heard.

I am sure that now that we are going to give Parliamentary approval to this Bill, it is going to serve as a sort of encouragement to many of our people who have interest in accountancy to continue with the profession and continue to show that not only in the field of medicine, law or engineering can Nigerians always prove themselves good but also in the field of accountancy.

As I said earlier on, this Bill is welcome but there is something I just do not understand and perhaps the Minister may have to put me straight. If a man is a practising accountant and for one reason or another he runs into difficulty and his case is brought before the Disciplinary Tribunal, there is a Clause in the Bill which provides that the decision on the future of the man could be deferred for two years. I am not quite sure if that condition would not work hardship on a man who depends on that profession for his livelihood. If such a man is to be suspended, it would be a good thing if he knows about it in time that he is going to be suspended. If his name is to be struck off the list of accountants, it would be a good thing if he is aware of this in time. But to hang him in the air for two years, making him unable to practise and awaiting the decision of the Disciplinary Tribunal, I feel, is too serious a thing. I do not know what is the opinion of the Minister on this point.

The other point I would like to mention in connection with the Bill is this question of training. It is provided that any of these practising accountants could take on any young

man who would like to pursue the profession and train him. It is stated that after training the new accountant would be accorded recognition.

I just want to be quite clear of the provisions of this section. Would that sort of training be on individual basis? I ask this question because the Clause went on further to explain that some annual subscription would have to be paid in that respect and if it was not the Institute conducting the training, I just cannot follow or connect how the annual subscription would have to be paid to the Institute in respect of the training.

But for these two points which I have just mentioned, I support this Bill. It is really welcome.

*Question put and agreed to.*

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

#### INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

#### BILL

#### CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

*Clauses 1-11 ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 12—(PENALTIES FOR UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT, ETC.)*

**Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku :** Mr Chairman, I would like the Minister to explain to the Senate whether he would not consider it a condition which could work hardship on a person if such a person has to comply with the provisions of this Clause. I would invite the attention of Senators particularly to the provisions of subsection 2 (a) of this Clause which says: "No decision shall be deferred under this subsection for periods exceeding two years in the aggregate." Though the period may not exceed two years in the aggregate, it may fall within two years. I would like to know if such a condition would not work hardship.

**Mr Akinjide :** This particular provision was agreed to by all the accountants and may I assure the Senate that similar provisions are in the Chartered Accountants Act of England and the United States. However, I assure Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku that if, in practice, this particular Clause is found to be working hardship, I would not hesitate to bring an Amendment.

As Senators can see, the maximum period of waiting is given but the minimum is not. It therefore follows that the decision could be given within a week, a month, two months or three months and I hope that the members of the profession and those who are going to be on the Tribunal will take particular note of this comment by Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku.

I also assure Senators that I will be on the look-out for any abuse that may arise from the provisions of this subsection. Meanwhile, however, I do not doubt the good faith of the accountants and the supporters of the Bill. We have confidence in them and we hope that they will not abuse the confidence.

*Clause 12—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clauses 13-14—ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clause 15—(RULES AS TO ARTICLES, PRACTISING FEES, ETC.)*

**Senator Chief A. O. Fagbenro-Beyioku :** Under this Clause 15 (1), (a) and (b), I would like the hon. Minister to explain to me as to the intention of the clause. This Clause 15 (1) (a) and (b) state—

(1) *The Council may make rules—*

(a) *for the training with chartered accountants of suitable persons in accountancy methods and practice,*

(b) *for the supervision and regulation of the engagement, training and transfer of such persons, and*

(c) *for the provision of articles.*

Now, I just want to know so as to be quite clear whether this particular clause relates to training under individual accountants and not that the institute is going to establish a sort of training school.

**Mr Akinjide :** No. The training is in respect of attachments to firms of accountants and not training by the governing council.

*Clause 15 ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Clauses 16-20 ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

*Schedules agreed to.*

*Bill reported, without Amendment ; read the Third time and passed.*

SENATE OF THE FEDERAL  
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 6th May, 1965  
The Senate met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

OATH

Oath of Allegiance was administered to the following new Member—

Mr J. O. Taiwo (Minister of State)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The President reported His Excellency's Answer to the Address (26th March) as follows :

*I have received with great satisfaction the expression of your thanks for the Speech with which I opened the present session of Parliament. (General Acclamation.)*

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ESTABLISHMENTS

Whitley Councils

**O.76. Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku** asked the Minister of Establishments, how many meetings of the Whitley Councils were held during 1964; how far did the meetings improve the management-staff relations in the civil service.

**The Minister of Establishments** (Mr J. C. Obande): Nine meetings of the Federal Whitley Councils were held during 1964; the meetings succeeded during the year in question in maintaining reasonably smooth employer-staff relations within the civil service.

The Whitley Councils have proved to be an essential instrument for settling problems in the civil service and both the Government and its staff have continued to demonstrate their faith in the Whitley system.

**Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku** : I want to ask the Minister what steps he has taken to co-ordinate the activities of the Whitley Councils throughout the Federation, since he has informed us that the Whitley Councils are of great advantage to the civil service by cementing the industrial relations between

the Management and the Staff in the civil service? When I say throughout the Federation, I have in mind the ones in the North, East, West and the Mid-West, if any at all in the Mid-West.

**Mr Obande** : I am sure the Senator knows that the members of the Whitley Councils were selected in such a way as to represent the whole Federation.

Pensions

**O.77. Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku** asked the Minister of Establishments, whether he will now increase pensions payable to pensioners in view of the Morgan awards.

**Mr Obande** : The Senator is referred to my Answer to Oral Question O.22 by Senator Chief J. M. Egbuson.

INDUSTRY  
Tourist Centres

**O.78. Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku** asked the Minister of Industry, if he is aware that the river bank at Isheri and the adjoining land are ideal for the establishment of tourist industry; and whether he will cause them to be developed.

**Minister of State** (Mr E. I. Nkereuwem) : An inventory of all possible areas in the country for development as tourist centres is examined in the process to ascertain their suitability.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**Senator T. A. Idowu** : I would like to invite your attention to the publication in the *Morning Post* of this morning, where the speech I made on the Appropriation Bill was deliberately distorted.

Nowhere in my speech yesterday did I mention that provision should not be made for the Police Force to prevent riot or anything in the Western Region during the next Regional election. I have seen the verbatim report of this House and nothing of that sort appeared in my speech.

I would refer you to the portion of my speech which I am complaining about. With your permission, I beg to quote what I said yesterday—

*There has been a general increase in expenditure for the services of the Government, and if the increase in the number of Ministers and*

*Parliamentary Secretaries is anything to go by, further increases are to be expected which would require Supplementary Estimates.*

*However, the increase in expenditure with which we are concerned now is not due to increase in the number of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries but due to the security and other needs of the country. Here the increase in votes for Police by £1,449,200, for Army by £556,650, for Air Force by £445,470, and for Prisons by £112,740, is to be noted.*

*Senators will recall that some desperate people by thuggery, arson, sabotage and murder really threatened the security of the State and the peace, harmony and unity of this country during the last few years. As much as it is desirable to improve these services—and this implies more expenditure—it must be noted that it was these desperate people that forced this increase in public expenditure at this time that money is needed for income yielding projects.*

*While congratulating the Government for measures taken so far to deal with the situation, it is important to warn these desperate people through, this House, that they are not doing themselves or this country any good by their activities, and that if they persisted they may be courting disaster for themselves.*

With your permission, may I also quote what they reported me in the *Morning Post* to have said—

*Senator T. A. Idowu who made the call, was of the opinion that the Government should take into consideration the security of the State in all spheres by setting aside a large sum of money for the armed forces.*

*Instead of spending money on the Police to keep peace in the West during the forthcoming election, Senator Idowu suggested it would be better if such money is used for industries to reduce unemployment.*

Mr President, these I never said. I would be an ungrateful wretch if I made such a statement.

It was only last Saturday, the 1st of May, that the police sent escort right from Lagos to accompany me to Ijebu-Ode, because I complained that my life was threatened, and policemen were sent to protect my life. The Lagos police left me at Ibadan and the Ibadan

police took over from them. At Ijebu-Ode, the Ibadan police left me and the Ijebu-Ode police took over. This happened last Saturday, the 1st of May. It would be unfair for me to come here and say that the police should not be allowed to protect lives.

#### NOTICE OF MOTION

##### ADJOURNMENT (SINE DIE)

**Minister of State** (Chief J. I. G. Onyia): I beg to move, That the Senate, at its rising this day, do adjourn *sine die*.

**Minister of State** (Mr E. I. Nkere-Uwem): I beg to second.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved:* That the Senate, at its rising this day, do adjourn *sine die*.

#### ORDER OF THE DAY

##### HIRE-PURCHASE BILL

*Order for Second Reading read.*

**Minister of State** (Mr E. I. Nkereuwem): I beg to move,

That a Bill for an Act to make provision with respect to hire-purchase and credit-sale transactions and advertisements relating thereto; and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid, be read a Second time.

Senators are well aware that the need for a comprehensive legislation to regulate hire-purchase transactions which have become a vital part of our economic life has been widely acknowledged. It has been the subject of Parliamentary Questions and Motions in recent years.

As far back as 1959, a Private Member's Motion in the name of Mr J. A. O. Akande called on the Federal Government to examine the need to introduce a hire-purchase legislation. I informed the House then that my Ministry already had the matter in hand and was in consultation with the Federal Ministry of Finance and with the Regional Governments. Consultations with the Regional Governments were necessitated by the fact that it is not possible for the Federal Government to legislate for the control of Hire-Purchase and Credit generally, other than activities of



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[Hire-purchase Bill]

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[Hire-purchase Bill]

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[SENATOR CHIEF FAGBENRO-BEYIOKU]

Bill that I would like the Government to put into operation immediately, particularly on the question of what now obtains in our own society as affecting civil servants, parliamentarians, members of corporations and officials of statutory boards.

We have in this country to-day the U.D.C. which is more or less a hire-purchase enterprise. They finance and accept responsibilities for members of the Government, of the statutory corporations and boards and parliamentarians wishing to buy cars. To me, what they are doing is not hire-purchase; it is a Jewish business because we just do not know how the whole thing operates.

I am surprised that the Government has kept its eyes closed to that transaction. I do not know how it operates. For example, a person buys a car the value of which is £1,000, and whether the interest is simple or compound or complex he does not know, but for the first year he pays 6½ per cent on the amount advanced. People call this business hire-purchase. During the second year if he has, say, £500 left to pay, he pays 13 per cent on the amount outstanding. And during the third year, if there is anything left to pay, say, £250, the hirer pays 19½ per cent. Is that hire-purchase? That is not hire-purchase, and I wonder how Government could condone that and keep its eyes shut to it.

**Mr Nkereuwen :** While we in the Ministry of Trade are not holding brief for any Shylock-like practice, I would respectfully ask Senators to confine their observations to the provisions of the Bill. If there is anything which is worrying the minds of Senators, there is a channel through which this can be relayed to the appropriate quarters.

**The President :** I am going to allow the Senator to continue the way he is doing because this matter, to me, is quite a serious one and is in the interest of the Legislators.

**Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku :** What is the result of this business? Most of our civil servants—people who are expected to work with free minds and in an atmosphere of satisfaction, contentment and relief—cannot do so. Then, we say there should be no bribery and corruption. To these people, a car is no luxury, it is a necessity. Similarly,

to Members of Parliament, a car is no luxury or something for pleasure. Most of them have to visit their constituencies after the meetings of Parliament. We all know very well that transportation system in this country is not perfect.

Government grants a parliamentarian an advance to buy a car. But what does he get from the Government? He gets £900 per annum. This fact is not hidden because it is in the Estimates. This is a salary of £75 a month. Then he is given an amount to buy a car, after which he starts to pay an instalment of £50 a month out of the £75! He has got his election expenses, his tax and other things to pay, and he is left with a balance of £25. This is what happens to an hon. Member who is expected to live an honourable life. With a balance of £25 from our salary it is not even sufficient to pay the driver and to buy fuel. I am quite aware—

**The President :** I hope the Senator who has the Floor will make sure that he is relevant. For as long as he discusses something relevant to hire-purchase I shall allow him, but if he goes beyond that I will disallow him.

**Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku :** We buy our cars through a hire-purchase system, and I am discussing the hire-purchase transaction that is carried on by U.D.C. This affects the Government as well as the civil servants, and when this Bill becomes law and starts to operate it is going to affect this organisation—the U.D.C.

This firm does not take risk insofar as the Government and Members of Parliament are concerned. It is the Government that deducts the monthly instalments, keeps the record and remits the sum to them by cheque. If there is any amount left unpaid—either through the death of a Parliamentarian or a civil servant—Government underwrites it by paying that money from its coffers. There is then no question of risk which should warrant the high rate of interest demanded by U.D.C.

We welcome the Bill, but if what we now experience under the old system in the purchase of cars is what this Bill will usher in, then we are afraid; but whatever happens we shall pass this Bill since we know that there is provision for regulations to be initiated. We do appeal to

the Minister that within a very short time this matter should be properly looked into and regulated otherwise hardship would be created for the people who will be mostly affected.

I beg to support.

**Senator T. A. Idowu :** Whilst supporting this Bill, I have to praise the last speaker who has just concluded his remarks. The Bill appears to be good, but since it says that it is the prerogative of the Minister to appoint an operative date, we plead that the date of operation should be retrospective to three years. This will stay the hands of those Shylocks from enforcing the contents of the agreement reached before now.

The U.D.C. is only a financing house ; we do not buy cars directly from them. The Government guarantees to pay the loans back in case of default, yet it is stated in their agreement with you that they reserve the right to impound or seize the car. What happens is that they pay out the loan and the Government undertakes to deduct the instalments for transmission to them ; but then I wonder why the Government should condone this flagrant robbery by the U.D.C.

They charge an interest rate of  $6\frac{1}{2}$  per cent at the start, and the Government closes its eyes to this kind of flagrant robbery. This is entirely bad ; and what is worse is that they will not allow you to know the contents of the agreement you have to sign. You are simply shown dotted lines and asked to sign and later on they send you a copy of the agreement.

I am happy that it is provided in this Bill that the hirer must know what the agreement is all about before signing it, which makes me to suggest that this provision should be made retrospective in that we did not fully understand what we signed for.

We do not know what amount of commission the Government is being paid as a "debt collector" for U.D.C. What material gain does the Government derive in this way. We want to be told because the U.D.C. collects  $6\frac{1}{2}$  per cent interest for the first year ;  $13\frac{1}{2}$  per cent for the second, and  $19\frac{1}{2}$  per cent for the third year. Even after the third year of paying the instalments we are still indebted to the U.D.C., we are still debtors, yet we are supposed to be hon. Gentlemen. We plead

that the President should take this matter up with the Government.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu :** I rise to support the Bill, but my remark will be in the form of a question. May I know whether the staff of Government are serving the U.D.C. by collecting and paying to them the monthly instalments, or do they make the deductions on commission basis? I ask this question because I am yet to see where the staff of one concern work for another organisation—

**The President :** The hon. Gentleman who has the Floor ought to be an international lawyer.

**Senator Chief Acholonu :** The Bill is a very good one, and it looks as though it is the only excellent Bill we have had during this meeting of the Senate. It touches many of the points which bother many people in this country. But there is something which is puzzling the mind of many a Senator, that is why should the Government—the father of all—hide behind the door to suck its people. If the Government has the interest of its people at heart, why should it appear to be the "servant" of the U.D.C.—

**The President :** I hope that the Senator is not imputing motive on the integrity of the Government?

**Senator Chief Acholonu :** Not at all, but considering the circumstances surrounding the method of purchasing cars by Parliamentarians and civil servants, if care is not taken, one is wont to be rude while making his contribution to this Bill. However, I do not pray to be.

May I ask the Government to ensure that that uncompromising arrangement is modified and improved in a way which will be agreeable to both the owner and the hirer. We object to this type of tripartite transaction between the Members of Parliament and the civil servants on the one hand, the Government as the middleman, and the U.D.C. on the other.

If the Government wants to give assistance to its subjects, it should do so directly as is done in the Regions. In the Regions, Legislators are advanced money by the various Governments and it is deducted from their salaries monthly by Government. But in the case of

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the Federal Government we do not know whether it gets any compensation in the present arrangement, or it labours without any gain at all.

We shall be grateful if this point is driven home to the appropriate quarter so that the matter can be looked into, and something done to rectify the position.

I beg to support.

**Senator Chief A. O. Airewele :** This Bill is non-controversial since it seeks to bring protection to both the owner and the hirer. It is as well timely in that it will bring to an end the sufferings of most of our people. The commercial concerns engaged in this hire-purchase affair have not lived up to expectation; some of them are even worse than smugglers.

They enter into hire-purchase agreement with a hirer, they dictate who shall be the insurance agent, *et cetera* and then the hirer becomes a pawn in their hands. This Bill is a good one and it is welcome because it is going to afford protection to both owner and hirer.

I associate myself with the opinion expressed by Senators who spoke before me to the effect that the U.D.C. should now be checked. It is high time the U.D.C. was checked in its activities. For our Government to act as sales agent for the U.D.C. is a thing that surprises everybody, and this is the reason why I support the request that the U.D.C. should be checked. If the Regional Governments can give loans to Members of their Legislatures to buy cars without strings attached, the Federal Government should equally give such loans to Members of Parliament. The Federal Government should even go a little further and should not hide behind the U.D.C. There is no reason why their own rate of interest should be higher than what obtains in other places.

We shall therefore be grateful if the rate of interest is very much reduced or at least made to fall in line with the rate of interest charged on money loaned by other financial houses for all sorts of purposes.

**Senator Chief S. Longe :** This Bill, to me, is not controversial but, as other Senators have already pointed out, there is something very grave going on and which affects almost every one in this country, including Senators.

According to the Constitution of Nigeria the President of the Republic is the first gentleman. The next in rank is the President of the Senate, followed by Senators. If Senators, who are supposed to be fathers of the nation, could be treated in the way this so-called U.D.C. is treating us, what would happen to other people in the country, say our civil servants and others who are not as privileged as we are?

This is a thing that the Government must look into. To me the U.D.C. does not come within the terms of this Bill. They are no sellers of goods. They are only financiers because they do not sell goods as such.

A section of this Bill states that if one wants to buy an article, both the selling price and the hire-purchase price must be stated before one takes delivery of the article so that one knows what is the cost price and what he has to pay on the article on hire-purchase terms. With your permission, Mr President, I shall read the section of the Bill which is relevant to what I am saying :

*Before any hire-purchase is entered into, the owner shall state in writing to the prospective hirer, or otherwise in the note or memorandum of the agreement, a price at which the goods may be purchased by him for cash.*

This is the section under cash price. With the U.D.C. there is nothing like cash price. It is the hirer who contacts the dealers of his car, he negotiates with them for the car and after all this the Government who had told us that it was prepared to advance us £1,500, would turn round to say that we should go to the U.D.C.

We new Senators were of the opinion that the U.D.C. was a department of the Government. We did not know that the U.D.C. is a finance house. If we had known this, we would have refused to take the loans for our cars and would have protested that the instructions given us were to the effect that the Government would advance us a sum of £1,500 to buy our cars. We would have insisted on that and would have come to this Senate and reported to the President and asked him to remedy the situation. We would have asked the Government to tell us when they changed their law.

When the Government told us to go to the U.D.C., we went to them and they gave us these cars, but after a few months of the delivery of the cars we were presented with documents to be signed, and in these documents it was stated that the cars were bought on hire-purchase terms from the U.D.C. Who is this U.D.C.? Who owns the U.D.C.? How can we allow some foreigners to gather themselves together, form a company and start making money out of Nigerians?

This is a thing that Senators, as fathers of this nation, must look into and, Mr President, this is a job which you should do both for Senators and for the nation as a whole. I hope that the Senate will pass this Bill to safeguard the nation.

Furthermore, I support the Senator who suggested that this Bill should have retrospective effect of about three years. I would, however, say that if it could not go back as far as three years, it should go back to about two years so that the evils that have been done in the past might be remedied.

With these remarks, I beg to support the Bill.

**Senator Edward I. Onewokae :** This is a welcome Bill the passage of which every one has been envisaging. It is a Bill that concerns both the civil servants and every other individual in this country. However, I have some observations to make on it.

In Clause 5 of the Bill it is stated that the Minister of Trade is to regulate the terms of hire-purchase. One would have expected that the terms of trade or the restriction of the rate of interest would have been mentioned in the Bill. For instance, if the rate of interest was stated as  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent and was so mentioned in this Bill, it would have been a subject for debate by the Senate. But as it is at the moment, no one knows whether (although we have confidence in our Ministers and know that they can do all that will suit both the hirer and the owner) the rate of interest will still continue to be what it is now or whether it is going to be changed. It would have been proper for the rate of interest to have been specified in this Bill.

With these little observation, I beg to support the Bill.

**Senator Chief F. G. Ojehonmon :** I rise to support this Bill. Although many of the Senators who spoke before me have actually said a lot of what I would have liked to say, but I still have something to add. First of all, I do not know what is meant by the U.D.C. I would like to be told what is meant by the U.D.C. I understand that the full name of the U.D.C. is the United Dominion Corporation. Is this correct?

**Several Senators :** Yes.

**Senator Chief Ojehonmon :** If this is so, I do not understand why this corporation should enjoy so much of the patronage of our Government.

In my opinion, I would say that this advance said to be given to civil servants through the U.D.C. is a sort of gallows where the civil servants are hanged. No sooner is the death of a civil servant announced than it is discovered that he is in debt. This was not so in years gone by. I think this situation came into being only about ten to twenty years ago.

Formerly, when a civil servant wanted advance from the Government, such advance was granted by the Government itself and some interest was charged on it. This interest did not rise with the years. But in the case of the U.D.C., I understand that in the first year of the advance, the borrower pays  $6\frac{1}{2}$  per cent interest, in the second year he pays  $13\frac{1}{2}$  per cent, in the third year he pays  $19\frac{1}{2}$  per cent, and so on. The interest therefore has no limit.

What I would suggest is that the U.D.C. should be scrapped. We ask the President of the Senate to see that this corporation is scrapped. Let the Government make such arrangements whereby we can have our advances from the proper quarters. We would not like to see a situation whereby a company handles the granting of advances. Why should we not be able to go straight to the Government and take loans instead of going through a third party?

With these remarks, I beg to support the Bill.

**Senator H. O. Abaagu :** I have not got a long comment to make on this Bill. I just want to remind the Minister of Trade that there are three evils here which are ruining our economy. The first of these evils is the

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Dr Azikiwe was followed by our very good friend, Chief Dennis Osadebay, a man who finds it difficult to hurt anybody, a man who finds it difficult to annoy anybody, a man who is a friend to all and enemy to none. Although he is a politician, to him politics is second consideration. Nigeria is his first consideration. When he was on the President's Chair and it was time to adjourn, we did not feel like adjourning exactly as we feel to-day. He is doing another job for the country and we pray that God may strengthen his hands.

I have said something about the late Senator Oba Adeniji Adele II of Lagos, who was the Deputy President of the Senate. He did his best on the occasions he occupied the President's Chair. We are sure that when the time comes and the present Deputy President occupies the Chair he will not be frightened.

And you, Mr President, Dr Abyssinia Nwafor Orizu. Abyssinia—the very name is meaningful. We remember the Abyssinian War. It was the very war that started to knock at the door of the independence of Africa. You were born during that war and the spirit of that war descended on you, Mr President. You grew up and you joined the crusade. If you did not join it something must have been wrong somewhere. Since you have been in this House you have contributed your best, but the best was not known until you occupied the Chair of the President of the Senate. The way you direct the affairs of this Senate—you appear friendly to every Senator—I am sure you must have been thinking of Dr Azikiwe and Chief Osadebay. You must have been thinking that this was the way Dr Azikiwe did it, that this was the way Chief Osadebay did it, "I must do it that way and I must even excel them in my own human relations with the Senators." Mr President, you make us feel happy, we want to tell you this and we are always proud to be here with you.

During your tenure of office as President of this Senate, we have got cause to be thankful, we had three Senators before who were Ministers, to-day we have six. (*Applause*). He has always led us from one success to another.

Then we have Senator Alhaji Nuhu Bamali, a man who started over here (he used to sit

by me) before he went to the Government Bench. We also have Senator Chief Ayo Rosiji who came from the Lower House. We have Senator Chief Ilojei Onyia—I want to give his real name. He used to sit over there as a Senator. We made him the father of the House because he has been a parliamentarian before anyone of us.

Sir, it appears as if his stock of experience has been further enlarged, and when we all learned of his elevation to the Ministerial Bench, we were very proud. I think he has been long overdue for that honour. I would rather not say that it is late. Nothing is late if it comes at all. It is only late if it does not come. We observe that even though he is there, he has not been able to make up his mind whether he is a member of the Government Bench or an ordinary Member of the Senate. I am sure we shall all feel very happy to help him through.

There is also Senator Aransiola Olarewaju. He was a Minister in the Lower House before he was promoted to the Upper House. Then we also have Senator Daniel Ibekwe. Those of us who know him will feel proud to have him as a Senator here. Those of us who have associated with him from the time he arrived as a young lawyer practising with Mr J. I. C. Taylor, until the President of the Republic adopted him as his Legal Adviser, will agree that he has always been a true and faithful man. I think he deserves the honour done him.

I have to congratulate all of them on their achievements. I also have to congratulate the rest Senators, especially a man like Dr Esin, who is not here again. He did his best when he was here with us and he was very good. We do hope he will be able to find his way back here some day.

Mr President, allow me to pay tribute to the other Senators who are still here, and while doing so, I want to mention first of all the wife and mother of the Senate. That is what we christened her here. I refer to Senator Chief (Mrs) Wuraola Esan. She is followed by our second woman Senator, Mrs Bernice Kerry. You all know that in our African tradition, when there is a first wife, there must be a second one. When Senator Mrs Kerry came here, we were very happy. There is one

thing I found out about her. She is rather sharp. Whenever she has a point, she keeps standing until she is able to drive that point home. I must confess that she has won our admiration.

You will excuse me, Sir, because this is a very important occasion for those Senators who have just come in here, and I want them to know that they have come into a most honourable society. We have a man like Senator Chief Hunponu-Wusu whose call in this House was always for a second bridge in Lagos, and we are happy that that bridge has been promised Lagos.

Then we have Senator Nzerem whose chief mission was the improvement of our transport system, safety on our roads and the construction of the Ondo-Benin Road. I think we now have the new road. We are now using that road and I am happy to note that these requests came from this House.

Furthermore, I would like to mention my good Friend, Senator Alhaji Ungogo. We should note that not everybody who makes noise is a man. His presence here adds dignity to the Senate. The royal dignity in him makes everybody to listen when he speaks because we realise that somebody substantial is speaking.

There is also our very good Friend, Senator Zanna Medalla Sheriff. Ever since he came here, he has been the watch dog of the North. He wants to see that everything Northern is not defiled or ridiculed here. His motto is: "If you want to talk about the Northern Region, you must try to understand the Northern Region."

Once he sees a Member going out of his way, he jumps up to correct him and that has made most of us who have no real knowledge of the Northern Region and, perhaps, could have gone astray, to find out the way. Towards the end of the last Senate everybody was speaking with confidence about the North. The man who has taught us a greater lesson about the North is Senator Zanna Medalla Sheriff.

Also, we have Senator Yusufu, a very good man. He is an ex-serviceman, was a nurse and in fact, everything.

I do not like to waste the time of the Senate if I want to go into more details, I will have to

mention everybody here, but I want to leave myself out.

Unfortunately, Mr Ogundipe is not back here. He has fallen by the way side. But I must not forget my Friend, Senator Ukattah because it was his wonderful luck to occupy that Chair, the President's Chair on a certain occasion when neither the President nor the Deputy was available. He occupied the Chair for that temporary period and did the job excellently well. So, we must remember him.

I would like to mention my Friend, Senator Abaagu who hates anything that will spoil this country and even asked for death sentence for convicted smugglers. Well, he is a wonderful man. He was one of those who built up the standard of debate in the Senate. When people do not know whether they should speak or not, Senator Abaagu has always spoken, and by that, he gives inspiration to others.

Now, we have got many new Senators here. But there are many others who are old Members and who have contributed immensely to the progress of the Senate; people like Senator Chukwubike, Senator Alhaji Metteden, Senator Ejaife and Senator Chief Acholonu to mention but a few. In fact, every Member here, I am sure, has done his best, including all the new Members. But I am sorry that these new Members missed somebody who was always laughing in the House. I am referring to former Senator Olayeye of Okitipupa. He used to tell us that there are many fine girls at Okitipupa hence he is always happy! Well, we do hope that he will be here to join us again.

Now, we also have men like my good Friend, Senator Rev. Olaleye, a Pastor in his own right, a Minister of Religion who may one day become a Minister of State. From his performance since his arrival here, I must say that he has been helping us. We also have in our midst the new Oba of Lagos. I know that the Oba of Lagos is a man who always has something in stock. He is never happy to sit down dull and quiet. I know him very well and I am sure we shall enjoy his company.

Senator Egbuson has already demonstrated his ability here. There is, of course, Senator Chief Ngiangia who talks in such a cool way, but if one listens carefully, one will find that he is always philosophical in his speech and there is always a lot of substance in what he says.

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We have our Friend Senator Uti and we have also Senator Idowu who will always look for Police protection. (*Laughter*).

We have Senator Adefarakan who made his maiden speech yesterday, even though it was written, yet there was something in it. So we have him here and we also have Senator Chief Edward Ikrakpeta Onewokae, who started very well yesterday and I am very proud of the way he is going on. I may predict that if he continues in the same way he will prove to be really helpful to us.

We have Senator Chief Ojehomon and Senator Chief Longe who perhaps will be deputising for the Timi of Ede, because the Timi of Ede might soon be going to America and Senator Longe will be the next in command. Perhaps we shall visit him sometime before the Oba of Ede returns from America.

Now I come to Senator Airewele who does not hesitate to say his mind. I like him. One cannot be correct until one practises. I have Senator Chief Ekefre. When I saw him I started thinking of one friend called Kufere. I had a friend known as Kufere in Calabar. The two names sound alike. He has played a good part.

Now, I come to my partner Senator Chief Nyon. Senator Nyon, Charles Clinton, lawyer Okon and lawyer Ekpenyong and myself were the forerunners of juvenile activities in this country at Calabar. The whole thing started in the house of Mr Charles Clinton. We started it on voluntary basis and took care of juvenile delinquents. We were going to court without anybody asking us to do so. It all started sometime between 1938 and 1939, but now we are happy because during this sitting of Parliament, we discussed something about the Bill entitled "Children and Young Persons Act, 1965".

When we left this House, after discussing that Bill, Senator Chief Nyon and myself cast our minds back to those days when we were championing the cause of young children who were less fortunate. We were happy and proud. I am, therefore happy that Senator Nyon has had the opportunity to join the Senate. Before he came here, he was once a teacher at the Duke Town School, Calabar. He is a holder of the A.C.P. In those days,

A.C.P. was a difficult thing to achieve, and it was a great honour to achieve it at the age of thirty years. It was almost at par with London Matriculation and because so much premium was placed on it, the holders were very proud. Senator Nyon was then a proud man too as an A.C.P. but now I think he is a practising barrister.

Mr President, your luck is a good one. You have got the team, you have got the men. There may be an occasion when we have to put our foot down—

**Senator J. M. Ajayi-Obe:** Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku has forgotten to mention my name.

**Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku:** I am very sorry. This is another powerful chief from Ilesha, Senator Chief Owoade my neighbour.

As I was saying Mr President, yours is a good luck and we pray that God may give you long life to continue to guide the Senate. Everybody here is a friend. We love you, but we love the nation more. There is nobody we love more than the nation. It is always the nation first.

As I said earlier, if at any time we find it necessary to put our foot down on any Bill, we shall not do it in an irresponsible or unreasonable way. There must be some reason for doing so. We will do it in a way that would reflect credit on you because any credit to the Senate is a credit to its President.

Any time we have difficulty and we call on you openly on the Floor of this House or in your Chambers, there will be no greater satisfaction than your taking up that difficulty and helping us solve it. We want you to be particularly interested in this question of advances which we have discussed on the Floor of this House. You should take the matter up with the Prime Minister or with all the authorities concerned thereby give us the opportunity, by the time we come back, to stand up in this House and say bravo to our President.

Once again, we have to thank our Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa. We thank him for everything he has been doing for the nation and for the affection he has for the Senate. Each time he comes to the Senate he sits down very quietly and talks gently. He does not feel too big simply because he is

the Prime Minister, but rather he submits himself to the wishes of the Senate. And he says always that he would like to be one of the Senators and wished to be one someday. These words from the Prime Minister are a source of joy and pride to all of us and as such we thank him and congratulate him.

We would like also to congratulate our President—Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe. We congratulate all the Members of the Cabinet. This our new Government has just started and we want to pledge our allegiance and loyalty to them. As far as it lies within us, we shall keep to the letter and the spirit of the oath we took.

Mr President, my main concern this day, is just to congratulate all the Senators, including myself, for what we have been able to achieve so far.

**Senator J. K. Nzerem :** I was going to say something about congratulating ourselves, but here we have the spokesman of the Senate who has done it so well. I challenge anyone of us who can claim to do it much better than he did. But there is one omission and that is himself. He has not spoken about himself. He did not want to blow his own trumpet. Now, I want to blow it for him.

Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku is an Ifa priest a very important position in Lagos, because it is he who offers sacrifice which controls the turbulent waves of the sea, otherwise the waves will overflow Lagos and we all will perish and die. From that point of view alone, Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku is a very big man. His work in the Senate does not need to be commented upon, because our people say that a good wine does not need any bush.

Anybody who wants to know what Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku has done in the Senate, will only have to listen to what he has done to-day. He has taken very minute detail of the activities of all the Senators and that is very remarkable.

Of course, a trade unionist is always a very careful man. He takes stock of everything. Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku is a man whom the Trade Union Organisation of this country will always be proud of. As a Senator, his work cannot die. He is to the Senate, a spokesman, an orator, a friend and adviser. What can the

Senate do without him. We are looking forward to a day when he will become the President of the Senate.

When we came here early in the year and Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku was not here, everybody was sad. I met him along the corridor and asked him what was happening and he told me that the matter was being looked after. I was wondering in my mind who was going to speak for the Senate and who would give us the type of humour he often gives.

However, Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku hoped that in a few days some of us who were wondering, would hear something about him and surely we heard something about him and he came back to us again. We welcome him and we assure him that we have the greatest regard, the greatest esteem for his ability energy and wit. He has done more than credit to this House and we pray to Almighty God to continue to endow him with wisdom, so that he can continue to serve the nation.

I must associate myself with all the views he expressed about all Senators, the Members of the Cabinet, the Members of the Government and, in particular, our beloved Prime Minister. Of course, talking about the President of the Republic of Nigeria, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, I do not think that anybody can say anything new about him. All that we pray for is that God may continue to guard and guide him and let him live to see his children's children to the third and fourth generations.

Mr President, I will end my speech in a rather very serious note. As the Senate rises to-day, I would like to take the opportunity to appeal to those who control the destiny of the University of Lagos to spare no trouble to avert the catastrophe that seems to loom ahead. There is an ugly rumour circulating in Lagos that certain plans have been made to dismiss qualified professors and lecturers of the Lagos University and to replace them with less qualified men some of whom have only first degrees. May I hope that this rumour will prove to have no foundation in fact. People in authority, in whatever field of human endeavour, should always heed public opinion or take the responsibility for their obstinacy. We have had enough of crisis. Please do not plunge us into yet another one! A word is sufficient for the wise.

Thank you, Mr President.



**Senator T. A. Idowu :** We are very appreciative of the sentiment expressed by the previous speakers particularly Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku, while welcoming us the new Members to the Senate. Happily, we are quick to learn and we are equally quick to catch up. As we go along, we shall continue to be observant. If we do not know how the old Senators dance their own *kokoma* or *juju*, we shall learn from them.

We are very grateful to the President for the way in which he conducts the proceedings of the Senate. I would say that it is only the veterans of Nigerian nationalism that are expected to be here—people who have passed through the furnaces and vicissitudes of life, and particularly people who have seen the “war” really before Nigeria became independent. I have used the word “war” loosely. I do not mean the type of war that can be conducted by our Major-General, Aguiyi-Ironsi. I am talking about war in another sense.

The President of the Federation, Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, was once a President of this House. Chief Dennis Osadebay succeeded him. The late Oba Adele II was their Deputy. We all know the present President of the Senate very well. We knew him during the time when it was a sin to identify oneself with any political party. We are now here so that we may be able to impart our knowledge to those people yet in the kindergarten school of the Lower House. Senators who are here are men of wisdom, men who participated in Nigerian politics when the country was itching for freedom.

I remember a certain song which was sung during the hay day of the Zikist Movement. It went as follows :

*My life has been a joy to me  
No matter where I go ;  
I've learnt to live in harmony  
With kindly friend or foe.*

I think that Senators who are here, as has been said] by Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku, will try to give necessary guidance to the nation.

I have another matter to raise. I would like to say something about the newspaper reporters who come here to cover the proceedings of this House. They should be adequately warned about misquoting us deliberately. An example of this was what I drew attention to this morning in the *Morning Post*. I saw the young man responsible for this when we left the Senate yesterday. He asked for my speech and I gave it to him. But this morning, I saw the speech in the newspaper deliberately distorted. The young man must have got something up his mind. I think that a halt should be called to this. I think it will be the ruling of the President that any reporter who comes into this House should not deliberately misquote us for reasons only known to him.

I have another thing to say and that is that it is necessary, and perhaps the President will see to it, that a Business Committee of this House is established which will be recognised by the Government. Because we have not got a Business Committee, I do not think that things do go well with the people in the Lower House. I hope that a Business Committee should be appointed which will be recognised by the Government.

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Resolved :* That this House do now adjourn *sine die*.

*Adjourned accordingly sine die at twenty-five minutes to twelve o'clock.*

## WRITTEN ANSWERS—28th APRIL, 1965

### EDUCATION

#### Scholarships

\*O.8. Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba asked the Minister of Education, what countries have benefitted from the 500 scholarships set aside by the Federal Government to enable students from other African countries to study in our institutions of higher education.

**The Federal Minister of Education :** No African country has been benefitted yet.

### AVIATION

#### Oshogbo Aerodrome

\*O.40. Senator Chief S. O. Longe asked the Minister of Aviation, if he is aware that the Oshogbo aerodrome is situated in the Ede district area; and whether he will change the name to "Ede aerodrome".

**The Minister of Aviation :** Yes, Sir, but the name "Oshogbo Aerodrome has been so widely publicised that I do not consider it advisable to change it now. The aerodrome has been so named just as the international airport at Ikeja is designated "Lagos Airport".

### INFORMATION

#### Teaching of Vernacular Languages by Radio

O.41. Senator Chief S. O. Longe asked the Minister of Information, when he intends to introduce the teaching of Hausa, Ibo and Yoruba by radio.

**The Minister of Information :** As soon as funds are available and the necessary arrangements could be made. As the Senator is aware, the teaching of any subject by radio is much more than transmitting lessons from Broadcasting House. To be effective the listening end must be properly organised. This entails much organisation and large sums of money.

The Senator is assured that the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation is very much alive to the tremendous possibilities of introducing the teaching of Hausa, Ibo and Yoruba by radio, and that this will be done as soon as possible.

## 5th MAY, 1965

### TRANSPORT

#### Railway Rolling Stocks

O.29. Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba asked the Minister of Transport, when he will start manufacturing railway rolling stocks locally.

**The Minister of Transport (Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima):** The manufacture of railway rolling stock locally by the Nigerian Railway Corporation will commence in September this year. It is expected that a total of 150 waggons of the 800 required by the Corporation in the immediate future will be built in Nigeria partly from local and partly from imported material.

#### Proposed East-West Railway Link

O.30. Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba asked the Minister of Transport, when work will start on the proposed railway link between Western and Eastern Nigeria through the Mid-West.

**Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima :** A traffic survey of the proposed railway link between Western and Eastern Nigeria through the Mid-West has been carried out and the report is at present being studied by Officials of the Railway Corporation for submission to the Federal Government.

#### Nigerian National Shipping Line

O.31. Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba asked the Minister of Transport, how many men are employed by the Nigerian National Shipping Line; how many of the Engineers and Navigation Officers are Nigerians; and what are the nationalities of the others.

**Alhaji Zanna Bukar Dipcharima :** The present strength of the Nigerian National Shipping Line's staff is 662. Of this, 526 are Nigerians—26 of them Engineers and 31 Navigation Officers.

All the Company's expatriate staff are of Commonwealth origin—chiefly British, with a sprinkling of Australians resident in the United Kingdom.

## 6th MAY, 1965

## CABINET OFFICE

## Road Accident Statistics

O.20. Senator Chief M. B. Chukwubike asked the Prime Minister, how many road accidents occurred in Nigeria since last April, what were the main causes; and how many lives were lost.

**The Prime Minister :** Exclusive of statistics for the quarter ending 31st March, 1965 which are not yet ready, those for the rest of the period in question are as follows :—

	Accidents	Persons killed
North .. ..	3,048	490
East .. ..	2,538	235
West .. ..	3,032	393
Mid-West ..	548	91
Lagos .. ..	2,668	67
<b>TOTAL .. ..</b>	<b>11,854</b>	<b>1,276</b>

The main causes of the accidents were reckless and negligent driving, excessive speed, overloading and unroadworthiness of motor vehicles. Failure to heed caution, negligent crossing of the road by pedestrians and carelessness by cyclists have also played their part.

## Police Dogs

O.19. Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba asked the Prime Minister, how many Police dogs are there in each Region and the Federal Territory of Lagos.

**The Prime Minister :** 6 police dogs are at present being maintained in Lagos only by the Dog Section of the Nigeria Police Force as a pilot scheme in the use of dogs for crime detection. It is hoped that similar schemes will be set up in the Regions in the near future.

## Ghanaian Political Prisoners

O.59. Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu asked the Prime Minister, if he will consider urging his fellow commonwealth Prime Ministers at the forthcoming Commonwealth Prime Ministers' conference to take positive steps towards obtaining the release of Ghanaian political prisoners.

**The Prime Minister :** No, Sir.

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## Nigerian Diplomatic Missions

O.21. Senator Chief M. B. Chukwubike asked the Minister of External Affairs, if he will state in what countries Nigeria has diplomatic missions abroad; and what is the number of staff employed in each mission.

**The Minister of External Affairs :** As the answer to the question is rather long the answer will with the permission of the President, be printed in the *Hansard*.

*Following is the answer—*

Nigeria has diplomatic missions in the following 31 countries :—

Belgium  
 Republic of Cameroun  
 Republic of Congo (Leopoldville)  
 Republic of Dahomey  
 Ethiopia  
 Fernando Po  
 West Germany  
 Republic of Ghana  
 Republic of Guinea  
 Republic of India  
 Ireland  
 Italy  
 Ivory Coast  
 Liberia  
 Niger Republic  
 Pakistan  
 Saudi Arabia  
 Sierra Leone  
 Senegal  
 Sudan  
 Tanzania  
 Tchad  
 Togo  
 Uganda  
 U.A.R.  
 United Kingdom  
 U.S.A.  
 U.S.S.R.  
 Mali  
 Japan  
 Kenya

There are, in addition, consulates-general or consulates in Buea, Hamburg, Port Sudan and New York as well as area offices in Edinburgh and Liverpool.

The size of staff employed at each mission varies directly with the volume of work available. For instance, where there are large numbers of Nigerian students or other nationals, and where there is a large volume of trade, the staff is necessarily larger than where our nationals are few and trade of small volume. Thus, our mission in London has a total of thirty-eight home-based officials at present as compared with, say our mission in Cotonou where there are four home-based staff. An average mission would however comprise five or six home-based officials, *i.e.*, including secretarial, accounts, commercial and information personnel as well as diplomatic officers.

## FINANCE

### Tax Relief

**O.50. Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu** asked the Minister of Finance, if he will consider increasing the tax-free income of a person maintaining a child in an institution in the United Kingdom from £250 to £450 in view of the fact that the Federal Government itself pays £450 *per annum per* Government scholar in the United Kingdom.

**The Minister of Finance :** No Sir. I consider that the existing maximum relief of £250 *per* child to be generous enough. It already compares more than favourably with similar reliefs granted by the other Governments of the Federation. Whilst the Government has no intention of interfering with the individual's freedom to educate his children where he wishes, it sees no reason to give still greater encouragement to the education of our children in foreign countries.

## AVIATION

### African Air Service

**\*O.24. Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba** asked the Minister of Aviation, if he will indicate discussions with his counterparts in other African states with a view to the formation of an integrated African Air Service.

**The Minister of Aviation :** A joint report on Air Transport in Africa prepared by the E.C.A. and the I.C.A.O. recommended very strongly the formation of sub-regional airlines in Africa. These two bodies jointly organised the All African Air Transport Conference held in Addis Ababa in November 1964. The Conference at which Nigeria was represented and was given the chair endorsed the idea of forming sub-regional airlines in Africa and recommended that all the sections concerned should consult and try a grouping acceptable to the member countries.

Before the Conference however, my Ministry had sent out delegations to the member countries of the proposed West and Equatorial sub-region. The response is excellent and a conference on this subject commenced in Lagos on 26th, and ended on 30th April, 1965.

## TRANSPORT

### Overhead Bridge at Yaba

#### Railway Level Crossing

**O.52. Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu** asked the Minister of Transport, if he is not aware of the urgent need to construct an overhead bridge over the level crossing from Yaba central Bus Stop to Surulere.

**The Minister of Transport :** The construction of an overhead bridge over the railway level crossing at Yaba is the responsibility of the Lagos City Council. The Senator may wish to direct his question to the Minister of Lagos Affairs who is responsible for relationship with that body.

## ESTABLISHMENTS

### Pensions

**\*O.22. Senator Chief J. M. Egbuson** asked the Minister of Establishments, if he will consider and increase the pensions of retired civil servants in view of the recent increase in the salaries and wages.

**The Minister of Establishments :** The question of a possible increase in pensions in view of the recent increase in salaries and wages is at present being given very careful consideration by the Government.

\*O.23. Senator Chief J. M. Egbuson asked the Minister of Establishments, if he will consider the payment of pensions on the same day each month on which salaries and wages are paid to civil servants.

**The Minister of Establishments :** The present system of paying pensions on the last day of each month is considered to be satisfactory.

## MINES AND POWER

### Revenue from Oil

\*O.27. Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba asked the Minister of Mines and Power, how much revenue was collected from companies prospecting for oil by way of rents, royalties and premiums from 1961-64.

**The Minister of Mines and Power :** The rents, royalties and premia collected during 1961-1964 were :

	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64
Rents ..	1,691,496	2,294,492	3,019,966
Royalties	1,185,687	1,768,202	1,997,536
Premia ..	5,656,600	4,404,083	—
	<u>8,533,783</u>	<u>8,466,777</u>	<u>5,017,502</u>

No premium was collected during the year 1963-64 because no Company took a new oil prospecting licence during that period.

## COMMUNICATIONS

### Lengwe Postal Agency

\*O.49. Senator Chief M. B. Chukwubike asked the Minister of Communications, what was the volume of business in Lengwe Postal Agency in 1962, 1963 and 1964 ; and if he will consider converting this postal agency into a sub-post office.

**The Minister of Communications :** The Units of business transacted at Lengwe Postal Agency for 1962, 1963 and 1964 are as follows :—

1962 .. ..	8,833
1963 .. ..	8,737
1964 .. ..	9,772

The Postal Agency has still to attain the figure of 18,000 units required for conversion, and it is regretted that conversion cannot be considered at present.

## HOUSING AND SURVEYS

### Rent Control Tribunal

O.75. Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku asked the Minister of Housing and Surveys, if he will consider the immediate setting up of a Rent Control Committee to combat the excessive rents now charged by landlords in Lagos.

**The Minister of Housing and Surveys :** The possibility of setting up a Tribunal to control rents in the Federal Territory of Lagos is being actively looked into by my Ministry. It is intended to introduce a Bill on the subject during the next meeting of Parliament.

## INFORMATION

### Nigeria's External Publicity

O.65. Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku asked the Minister of Information, if he is aware of the fact that the image of Nigeria has not been adequately projected both locally and abroad ; and if he will state what proposals he has to ensure effective publicity for this country.

**The Minister of Information :** I am aware of the fact that the image of Nigeria has not been adequately projected abroad to the satisfaction of us all. As the Senator is no doubt aware, this was largely due to the controversy between two Ministries of the Federal Government over the subject of external publicity. Now that the conflict has been resolved and the responsibility for external publicity has been assigned to my Ministry, the Senator is assured that this matter will be pursued with vigour and imagination.

O.66. Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku asked the Minister of Information, whether he will consider the inclusion of photographs of Trade Union leaders and leaders of women organisations in materials for publicity abroad.

**The Minister of Information :** The overriding consideration in deciding what photographs to include for external publicity is the need to project a favourable image of Nigeria, socially and culturally to the outside world. Whenever the activities of Trade

Unionists, leaders of social, cultural or humanitarian movements, including leaders of women organisations, are deemed to have contributed to this primary objective, they will be considered for inclusion in material for external publicity.