



FEDERATION OF NIGERIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORT

SENATE

Session 1963-64

Comprising Period

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29th—30th April and 3rd June, 1963

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(FORMED BY ALHAJI THE RT. HON. SIR ABUBAKAR TAFAWA BALEWA, JANUARY 1960)

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IN THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE
FIRST PARLIAMENT OF THE
FEDERATION OF NIGERIA WHICH
OPENED THIRD OCTOBER, 1960

Wednesday, 27th March, 1963

Parliament met at 10 a.m. pursuant to a Proclamation by the Governor-General in the Official Gazette Extraordinary of 23rd January, 1963, as followeth :—

A PROCLAMATION

By His Excellency the Right Honourable Doctor NNAMDI AZIKIWE, Member of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Federation of Nigeria.



NNAMDI AZIKIWE
Governor-General

WHEREAS under the provisions of section 62 of the Constitution of the Federation the Governor-General is empowered to appoint a place and time for each session of Parliament :

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I NNAMDI AZIKIWE, Member of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Federation 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 27th day of March, 1963, 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 Federation of Nigeria at Lagos this 16th day of January, 1963.

PRAYERS

*The President of the Senate in the Chair
His Excellency, the Governor-General, entered the Chamber in procession and took his seat.*

Speech from the Throne

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

It is my Government's intention shortly to proceed to ratify the Charter of the Inter-African and Malagasy Organisation which was signed here in Lagos last December by the accredited representatives of the Member States. A White Paper to which the text of the Charter will be annexed will be placed before you in the course of the present session. This ratification should serve as a fitting prelude to the forthcoming Conference to be attended by both the Heads of State and Government in the Inter-African and Malagasy Organisation and those in the Casablanca group in Addis Ababa next May with a view to achieving unity and solidarity among all independent African States.

As a result of the recent Conference of the nine riparian States in the Niger River basin held in Niamey, my Government is giving active consideration to the establishment of the River Niger Commission by means of a governing Convention and Statute which would regulate the regime of the river and which would have the effect of abrogating the Treaty of Berlin 1885-86 by which the partitioning of Africa was accomplished by the European Powers.

In conformity with our declared policy of non-alignment in world politics, Nigeria intends to strengthen the process of concluding economic and cultural bilateral agreements with countries all over the world irrespective of their political complexion. (Hear, hear)

To meet the growing needs of Nigeria in the international markets and to promote her external relations with other countries, a few more Missions will be established in the Americas and the Far East.

Believing that no better organ exists for the promotion of international peace and world order, my Government is of the firm resolve not to slacken its efforts in upholding the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and in playing its full part as a member of the organisation. It

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will seek to do this by continued collaboration with the other member States in honouring all its legitimate obligations under the Charter.

In the light of recent happenings in the country and elsewhere, the need for assuring Nigeria's internal security is a major concern to my Government. To this end, the Nigeria Police will be increased in strength to cater for growing commitments throughout the Federation and will raise two further squadrons of the Police Mobile Force and a new Police Division for the Federal Capital.

This year will witness the beginning of the establishment of an ordnance factory which will further the industrialisation of the country and the products of which will make the army increasingly independent of outside sources. The keels of a new frigate for the Navy will also be laid and the training programme for Naval personnel to man our ships will be intensified by the offer of suitable courses both at home and abroad. This year will also witness rapid development in the creation of our air force. By the end of this year the flying training school at Kaduna will take in the first set of future Nigerian pilots as trainees. Training in overseas institutions will, however, continue for as long as is needed.

The welfare of the members of our forces will be kept constantly in mind, and more and better barracks will be built in various parts of the Federation.

Amending legislation is also proposed to regularise the disciplinary powers of Commanding Officers in the army. During the year a Bill for a naval code will also be introduced to replace the existing law.

Consideration will be given to the introduction of measures designed to deal with the greater welfare and training of prisoners so that they may return to society better equipped mentally and physically to take their rightful place in the community. In addition, prison accommodation will continue to be extended to facilitate the classification and segregation of the various types of prisoners so as to separate the young offender from the adult, the first offender from the habitual.

A Fire Service Bill will be introduced, the purpose of which will be to improve and expand the Federal Fire Service to enable it to cope more effectively with the increasing fire risks arising from rapid house building and industrial

development in the Federal Territory. The proposed improvement will include the provision of adequate buildings and equipment for the headquarters of the Lagos Fire Brigade, two additional District Stations and a training school for firemen.

New legislation will also be introduced to replace the existing Cinematograph Act, the provisions of which are now considered to be unsatisfactory for the maintenance of high film censorship standards. The new Bill will establish a central authority, with members drawn from all walks of life, to censor all films, whether imported or locally produced, before they are approved for exhibition in any part of the Federation.

My Government will introduce fresh legislation on immigration during the year.

The Nigeria Airways will continue to improve and extend both its international and domestic services by the introduction of the most up-to-date aircraft and equipment as well as the adoption of sound commercial practice. In particular, subject to a satisfactory conclusion of Air Services Agreement with the countries concerned, it will provide new air links with the Republic of Tchad, Niger, Togo, Dahomey and other neighbouring states on the West Coast of Africa.

Airports all over the country will be improved to meet the requirements of the modern and efficient aircraft now being introduced on the domestic services by the Nigeria Airways. Legislation will be introduced to increase aircraft licensing fees as well as airport charges so as to make them commensurate with the services offered, and to bring them in line with the rates normally charged for similar facilities in other countries.

The Bornu Railway extension, which has now been opened to traffic up to Gombe, 102 miles from Bauchi, will be completed. The Railway Corporation will pursue its programme of progressive dieselisation in the interest of efficiency and economy. A number of main line and shunting diesel locomotives will be introduced to meet the growing traffic requirements during the year.

Water resources investigation and training will be intensified. Catchment studies will be introduced and a Nigerian Hydrological Year Book will be published for the first time. The Lagos ferry terminal will be modernised and a new ferry commissioned to provide better amenities for the travelling public. Sapele ferry services will also be expanded and improved.

The Apapa Quay will be extended still further by the construction of four new deep water berths to cope with the growing import and export trade resulting from the industrial, commercial and agricultural development of the country. A new produce warehouse will be built to complement the Port Harcourt Wharf extension. The Bonny River channel will be deepened in its entire length to allow in deeper tankers through the bar. Plans are afoot for constructing fish wharves at Apapa and Port Harcourt in order to facilitate the supply and distribution of fresh fish and frozen food all over Nigeria. Efforts will continue to be made to sustain the Victoria Beach by pumping onto it one million cubic yards of sand annually.

The Escravos Bar Project designed to provide access at all stages of the tide for ships drawing up to 20 feet of water will be completed during the year. This is one of the largest river training works ever undertaken in the Commonwealth. Its completion together with the construction of deep water berths in Koko will provide Nigeria with yet another first class port and, in particular, give a marked impetus to the commercial and industrial development of the Mid-West area. (Hear, hear).

A substantial programme of road construction will be initiated during the coming financial year. Plans for the construction of the second Mainland Bridge in Lagos and for the extension to Lagos Water Supply are already advanced. Further measures will be adopted so as to ensure greater participation by indigenous contractors in the execution of contracts in connection with major works arising out of the present Development Programme. Following my Government's desire for greater co-operation with other African States, efforts will be made to open up more International Highways, and the possibility of securing agreement towards uniform International Highway Legislation will be vigorously explored.

The coverage of the whole of the Federation with topographic maps will be completed so as to provide one of the basic tools of planning and development.

My Government will continue the preparation of a comprehensive national telecommunications plan for Nigeria. The number of trunk telephone circuits will be increased, and a new type of switching gear will be introduced, with advanced common control mechanism, which will best meet the country's requirements for a national subscriber trunk dialling system.

A commercial policy and a commercial system of accounts will be introduced in the Posts and Telegraphs. Studies now in progress will permit the first practical steps to be taken towards the achievement of this objective during 1963.

The need for development of postal services, particularly in the rural areas, will be met by a revision of the present policy governing the establishment of postal agencies and post offices. Thirteen new post office buildings will be completed during the year, and a new post office building programme will be planned.

My Government is paying particular attention to the improvement of communications at the international level. The newly formed company, Nigerian External Telecommunications Limited, will proceed with plans to build a new transmitting station in Nigeria. The postal and telecommunications links with neighbouring African States will be improved.

The Electricity Corporation of Nigeria will expand its generating capacity to meet the growing demand for electricity which stems largely from the establishment of new industries and will continue the measures already started to improve the reliability of supply. My Government will continue its search for new users and new markets for coal both at home and overseas. A feasibility study will be undertaken into new uses for gas.

My Government will expand the training facilities at the School of Mines, Jos, and measures will be taken to encourage indigenous miners to participate more actively in the Mining Industry. Existing Mining Companies will be urged to make their shares available on the stock exchange, thereby throwing them open to Nigerian participation. Additional training facilities will be provided for indigenous miners to enable them to improve their technical skill and ability.

The work of the Geological Survey, in assessing the country's mineral resources and the production of Geological Maps, will be accelerated. The survey of underground water resources in the Chad Basin will continue, and a National Water Resources Survey Scheme will be initiated.

During the year, proposals for the enactment of a comprehensive Petroleum law covering all phases of oil operation, from exploration and production to refining, marketing and distribution,

will be put before you. My Government will take active steps for the development of the oil industry in co-operation with other oil producing countries, and will participate in the deliberations of International Organisations, whose objectives consist in the furtherance of the interests of both the consumers and the oil producing countries.

The construction of an Oil Refinery at Port-Harcourt, a joint venture between the Governments of the Federation and private enterprise, scheduled to be completed in 1964, will be commenced.

My Government will, in the course of this year, accede to the Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and research projects initiated on the peaceful uses of atomic energy in the field of Medicine, Agriculture, Industry and Science.

A new National Plan for Technical Education is being currently discussed between the Federal and Regional Governments, with a view to the present Technical Institute, Yaba, being transformed into our National Technical College.

My Government is planning to set up an Agency which will be known as a National Agency for High Level Manpower Training. The Agency will conduct a register of all trainable young persons in order to provide a reliable basis for statistics and educational planning. It will also set up a vocational guidance service for high level manpower occupations.

The possibility of co-ordinating scholarship activities will be examined in concert with the Regional Governments in order to ensure successful "investment in talent" for the country's manpower needs and to avoid expensive duplication of efforts.

During the year, it is proposed to enact a new Act which will incorporate the existing legislation relating to the West African Examinations Council.

Eight Health Centres will be built in Lagos. These, together with existing institutions, will ensure that there is at least one Health Centre in each Ward in Lagos to cater for all the medical and health needs of its inhabitants.

The reorganisation of the Health Service in Lagos which is now in progress will be carried on to its final phases during the year.

The newly-built out-patient department of the Lagos General Hospital will be open for public use within the next few months.

My Government attaches great importance to medical research. Towards this end, proposals will be formulated later in the year for co-ordinating medical research and for placing it on a firm foundation to ensure that research is geared to national needs, and at the same time, make provision for co-operation with other Research Institutes on an international level. The West African Council on Medical Research will be re-constituted.

A Bill will be introduced to rationalise the basis of medical education and reorientate existing views on the registration, discipline and other problems relating to the medical and dental professions in Nigeria.

The new Federal Supreme Court buildings will be completed and brought into use in the course of this year. Plans for the extension of the High Court buildings to provide for two more court-rooms and ancillary accommodation are far advanced, and work should start before the end of the year.

The rank of Magistrate in Lagos is to be strengthened by the creation of a new grade of Senior Magistrate.

To help the Board of Customs and Excise and the Police in their struggle against smuggling, Federal Crown Counsel offices will be opened in Calabar and Port Harcourt in the first instance.

The Crown Liability Bill will be introduced during this meeting to bring up-to-date the legal position in regard to litigation by or against the Government.

Work has commenced within the Ministry of Justice on a careful scrutiny of the Report of the Criminal Law Revision Committee, and a completely revised draft Criminal Code and a Criminal Procedure Bill will be placed before you in due course. In the absence of a report from the Company Law Revision Committee, the Ministry of Justice is preparing a new draft Companies Bill which, it is hoped, will lead to the introduction of the much-needed reform of our Company Law.

My Government will continue to furnish Nigerian legal and judicial officers to those African countries that request our assistance.

A Personnel Advisory Service will be established to develop the framework of relationships between workers and their employers. Legislation will be introduced to amend the Trade Union Act to ensure that federations of trade unions are

brought under the provisions of the Act and to permit needed control over the financial affairs, including all forms of external financial aid, of trade unions.

My Government proposes to establish a National Industrial Safety Council, representing all interests in industry, for the purpose of creating an intelligent understanding of the causes and prevention of industrial accidents. Regulations will be introduced to compel the provision of canteens or mess-rooms in certain classes of factories. (Hear, hear).

In the field of sports, legislation will be introduced to establish a National Sports Council which will be responsible for the proper organisation and administration of sports at the national level. It is hoped that this Council will help raise the standard of sports to the international plane.

My Government will increase its information services during the year, utilising all the information media available to publicise Nigeria at home and abroad.

High-powered transmitters will be installed during the course of the year. These will enable "The Voice of Nigeria" to be heard clearly in all parts of the world. Broadcasts will initially be in English, French and Arabic; in due course, Hausa, Swahili and other appropriate languages will be added.

The coming year will also witness the expansion and extension of the Nigerian Television Service so that all major events can be covered on the spot and transmitted the same evening.

Steps will be taken during the year to explore the possibility of setting up a National News Agency for Nigeria.

It will be my Government's endeavour to continue to encourage the expansion of internal and external trade and the promotion of industrial development. In view of Nigeria's rejection of associate status with the European Economic Community, a vigorous policy of export promotion will be pursued on a global scale in order to secure new markets for our produce. (Hear, hear).

Funds will be provided to enable the Federal Loans Board maintain financial assistance to indigenous small scale business enterprises, while the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank, soon to be established, will ensure Nigerian participation in major industrial enterprises in the private sector.

Senators and Members of the House of Representatives, one of the tasks which will occupy our attention this year will be the reorganisation of some of the key Federal Ministries which have to carry the main burden of Economic Development. These Ministries will be redesigned and their professional staff expanded to ensure the adequate preparation of projects and their continuous assessment. In particular, attention will be paid to the Economic Planning Unit and the Department of Statistics. It is expected that work will begin in the building up of an inventory of Natural Resources. Consideration will also be given to ways in which the work of the Research Departments can be brought to bear more fully and directly on problems of production.

A comprehensive survey of water resources will be carried out this year, and a bill on the allocation and conservation of water resources of the Federation will be presented to you.

It is expected that, in the coming year the F.A.O. Agricultural Survey now in progress will be completed and that early indications of the general line of agricultural development and of practical steps to be taken will be available by the end of the year.

The National Manpower Board, in consultation with Regional Governments, will pay special attention to the reformulation of scholarships policy and to the problem of employment of school leavers.

Efforts will continue to be made to achieve the highest possible standard of efficiency through the use of foreign technical assistance.

Mr Speaker, Members of the House of Representatives, your main business, at the present Meeting will be the consideration of the Appropriation Bill, together with its supporting Estimates of Expenditure, Recurrent and Capital, for 1963-64.

In order more effectively to conserve our internal financial resources, a Bill will be introduced which will require that a prescribed minimum of the moneys available to insurance companies doing business in Nigeria shall be invested in Nigeria. (Applause).

Legislation is also proposed to consolidate and strengthen the law relating to Currency and Currency offences, which are at present to be found scattered in separate enactments.

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27 MARCH 1963

[Adjournment]

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My Government intends to continue its negotiations with neighbouring states with which we share common frontiers and to conclude agreements with them so as to facilitate movement of persons and goods across these frontiers. In this connection, it is expected that the reorganisation of the Customs Preventive Service will be completed during the year.

The Joint Tax Board established under the provisions of the Income Tax Management Act will begin to carry out its statutory functions during the year. Great importance is attached to the Board's role in promoting uniformity in the incidence of income tax on individuals throughout the Federation. (Hear, hear). All appropriate measures against evasion of income tax will continue to be vigorously pursued.

Mr President of the Senate, Mr Speaker, Senators and Members of the House of Representatives, I pray that Almighty God will guide your work and endow your counsels with success and happiness for Nigeria and all her people. (Applause).

His Excellency retired from the Chamber.

10.38 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That Parliament do now adjourn—(THE MINISTER OF HEALTH)

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That Parliament do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at twenty-two minutes to eleven o'clock.

SENATE OF THE FEDERATION
OF NIGERIA

Thursday, 28th March, 1963

The Senate met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

BUSINESS STATEMENT

The Minister of Health (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi) : Mr President, Sir, I rise to make the following Business Statement. To-day the Motion for an Address will commence and continue tomorrow, and we hope on Saturday, depending on the progress of the debate on the Motion, to decide whether the Senate will rise or not, and if the Senate will rise on Saturday it will re-convene after Easter. I hope, however, that I shall be able to make another definite Business Statement in the course of the week.

NOTICE OF MOTION

GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH (MOTION
FOR AN ADDRESS)

Senator E. A. Lagunju : It is with the greatest pleasure that I rise to move, That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency, the Governor-General, as follows :

"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."

The Governor-General's poise and eloquence, his clarity of diction, are characteristic of this great son of Africa. The Speech itself is a masterpiece ; it is concise and compressed but impregnated with laudable projects of the Government of our country that has become more and more aware of our unique position in Africa. It is not sufficient to speak in general terms. It is necessary to point out some of these progressive steps.

First and foremost there is the question of peaceful co-existence with other African States. This is in keeping with the foreign policy of the Federal Government. The policy of non-alignment, the policy of 'friend to all and enemy to none'. This is clearly stated in the Government's intention to ratify the Charter of the

Inter-African and Malagasy Organisation, and side by side with this is the Federal Government's intention to co-operate with the freedom-loving countries of the world in the economic growth of this new nation through economic and cultural bilateral agreements.

You will agree with me that what we need most now is increased industrial market for our tin, cocoa, and oil products. Side by side with this is the assurance of Nigeria's internal security. This is given in clear terms by the Government's decision to increase the strength of the Police Force by raising two further squadrons of the Police Mobile Force and a new Police Division for the Federal Capital. We all realise that no country in the world and no well-meaning firm or commercial entrepreneur will dump his money into a country which is internally insecure. Internal security, therefore, is a necessary condition for a welfare state, and for the happiness and prosperity of our people we need internal security of the highest order.

The Speech from the Throne also contains something about the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force, and the progressive plans of the Federal Government to speed up industrialisation in this field by making the Army independent of outside sources. Here, of course, I may have to sound a note of warning. I sincerely hope we will not allow any foreign country to dump all her obsolete weapons in this country. It is very gratifying that the Federal Government is prepared to industrialise and make the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force, the instruments of our defence, free or independent of outside sources.

Side by side with this there is going to be legislation to regularise the disciplinary powers of Commanding Officers. This, I am sure, will raise the morale of the Army.

Another gratifying feature of the Speech from the Throne is the programme for the training of our prisoners. This, to my mind, is very pleasing indeed. It shows that the Federal Government has adopted a very liberal attitude. The Federal Government does not adopt a calvinist attitude by regarding some people as reprobates. Some people have been lost eternally, and if, of course, we embark on a policy of training the prisoners to become craftsmen or technicians of some sort, then, of course, we are helping to make them better

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citizens. That, will by itself reduce the number of people going to the prison yard. This, to my mind, is a very nice project.

Then we have the provision for adequate buildings and equipment for the headquarters of Lagos Fire Brigade and the arrangement to provide two additional district stations and a training school for firemen. We all know the amount of losses suffered through fire accidents, and this provision, of course, will reduce accidents and loss of property. This is another fine aspect of development.

Then comes the question of transport. First and foremost the Bornu Railway Extension will be completed, and there is going to be increased dieselisation. Our trains will move faster and carry goods and passengers according to schedule, and that will increase our prosperity. But here again I have to sound another note of warning. Sometime ago we spoke about the question of coal, and I sincerely hope we shall do all we can to find an alternative use for coal, because if we dieselise and the trains no longer use the coal of course, there is going to be a depression in the coal industry. But I am sure the Federal Government is quite alive to its responsibility, and will find a ready market for our coal so that there will be no slump, or depression, or unemployment in that industry.

As part of transport is the question of improved quays and the completion of the Escravos Bar project. Then, of course, part of that also is the question of road construction. We are all very happy to know that plans have been made for the construction of the second Mainland bridge for Lagos. I am sure our great man from Benin will be happy to know that although this is not categorically stated it is implied that the Benin-Shagamu Road will be completed in due course.

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : In due course? That certainly will be in the course of years.

Senator Lagunju : There is also the question of telecommunications. We know transport and communications are the live wire of the industrial growth of any country, and we are happy to note in the Speech from the Throne that we have plans for increased telephone circuits and postal services in this year's project, particularly in the rural areas,

and that thirty post offices will be completed in the year. I am sure the Federal Government will spread these new thirty post offices all over the country, particularly to places where the need is very pressing.

The Electricity Corporation of Nigeria, too, provide more electricity for our industrial expansion.

Another gratifying aspect of the Speech from the Throne is the promotion of geological survey and encouragement of indigenous miners so that our own people too can participate actively in the mining industry. We always say that Nigeria is rich in potentialities; that we have a lot of wealth underground; but then geologists must be trained to find out what precisely we have under our rocks and under the soil, and now that the Federal Government is prepared to make a desperate effort to see that something is done along this line, this is a very pleasing aspect of the Speech from the Throne. Another thing that is really gratifying is about atom for peace. In this country, at present, we are not in a position to speak of atom for war; we do not even want any war now if possible, because we are just growing. This is the age of automation, and if in other parts of the world they use atom for this purpose, there is no reason why we should not embark upon a similar project in this country. It is stated in the Speech from the Throne that atom for peace will be used in the medical, agricultural, and industrial fields.

Another pleasing feature of the Speech from the Throne is the Federal Government's desire to set up a national agency for high level man-power training and to provide vocational guidance which will enable our ambitious young men and women to go into occupations for which they are best suited. It appears some young men and women are unemployed because they do not even know what they have capabilities for. Some are very unhappy in their employment because they have chosen the wrong job and now that there will be a lot of vocational guidance and there is going to be this national agency for high level man-power training which we desire very much, I think the country will be better off once these schemes are implemented. I am sure that the Federal Government, with the full support of the Regional Governments, will work together for investment in talent;

as is stated in this Speech from the Throne. I am sure the Government of the Federation will adopt a more liberal attitude towards scholarship awards for the training not only of academicians but also technicians and industrialists.

Health is wealth. The programme for a Health Centre for every Ward in Lagos is really a bold one, and side by side with this is our great need for more doctors and nurses. It is then we will be able to do a mighty lot in the way of discipline and promotion of bed-side manners because when we get more doctors and nurses, competition is keener; the economic law of supply and demand operates and, of course, the doctor knows that if he does not have bed-side manners he will readily lose his job. The nurse knows that this applies to her too. Side by side with this question of Health Centres there is the need for the expansion of our training programme for doctors and nurses.

We are all aware of the industrial unrest we always have in this country, and the Speech from the Throne showed that the Federal Government is going to have a personnel advisory service to develop better relationship between workers and their employers. There is also going to be a National Industrial Safety Council to find out the causes and the prevention of industrial accidents. I am sure this progressive plan will improve the lots of our workers; promote better understanding between the employers and the employees, and, of course, reduce industrial unrest.

Another thing is the provision for the establishment of a National Sports Council which will lead not only to better organisation and administration, but also to the raising of the falling standard of sporting activities in this country. We are not always happy when we see a smaller country—a much smaller country—just beat us shamefully in the field of sport. We have the men and the establishment of this National Sports Council by the Federal Government is really a nice move. Then we shall get the right type of men coming to the front; there will be better organisation, better administration and better sporting activities.

I do not intend to indulge in a long speech. Other gratifying aspects of the Speech from the Throne are: the provision of Federal Crown Counsel offices at Calabar and Port Harcourt to combat smuggling; provision for a more speedy dispensation of justice by our country's Senior

Magistrates; the projection of Nigeria's personality by making the "Voice of Nigeria" heard in English, French and Arabic; encouragement of indigenous small-scale business enterprises with funds provided from the Federal Loans Board. I am sure these four points which I have grouped under gratifying aspects are really very important.

I am happy that the Federal Government is prepared to encourage our indigenous small-scale businessmen. (*Hear, hear*). This is very nice indeed but I am sure the Federal Government will be on its guard to prevent policy of dumping because once we get young indigenous industries coming up, big foreign combines are prepared to stifle these young industries. They can adopt a policy of dumping, they can reduce their prices; they can even sell at losses for some time because they are sure they will eventually cover the ground. But I am sure since the Federal Government is prepared to encourage our small businessmen they will be on the guard to see that the small businessman is not put out of job by the big combines.

Finally, I am sure you will agree with me that the move to reorganize some of the key Federal Ministries for Economic Development is a move in the right direction. I am sure the Federal Government will use the National Economic Council to provide for rapid agricultural, economic and commercial expansion, to provide jobs for our teeming millions.

I beg to move. (*Applause*).

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba : I beg to second. (*Applause*).

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku : I wish to associate myself with the motion and in doing that I wish to say how very happy we were yesterday to hear that great speech delivered by that great son of Africa, Dr. the hon. Nnamdi Azikiwe. We were not disappointed, as a matter of fact, if the contrary had happened we would have said there was some sort of scoup for the journalist. But Dr. the hon. Nnamdi Azikiwe spoke in his usual way, with every forthrightness and every foresightedness. We were very happy also to see our Governor-General display to the world that the major force is there. He did that by donning himself in the uniform of a Field Marshall. (*Hear, hear*). He knows that Nigeria is and Nigeria will ever remain. The

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other time he donned himself in that uniform. I made an observation in this honourable House that the uniform was too plain and too black.

I was very happy to observe yesterday that there was some sort of additional adornment. But still I was of the opinion that perhaps the Committee working on our national honours could have completed their work and that when Dr the Rt. Hon. Nnamdi Azikiwe, the Governor-General of this great country appeared yesterday he would appear with a symbol of one of the most honourable awards this country can bestow on a person.

Senator E. A. Lagunju : In form of bead decoration !

Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku : It may be beads, it may be anything. But I would say the uniform would never, in my opinion, be complete until next time when I see him in that uniform with the decoration of honour bestowed on him by Nigeria.

Coming to the Speech itself, I would say that Nigeria is on the move. The Inter-African and Malagasy Organisation has demonstrated to the world that Africa can initiate concrete policies ; that Africa can by itself rule the world. I want here to comment on the attitude of the Inter-African and Malagasy Organisation on the occasion of the assassination of the late President Olympio of the Republic of Togo. I was very happy that this great country, Nigeria, spear-headed the move to call the African nations together on this issue. I was also very happy that that great Organisation came to the conclusion that seizure of power by assassination should be made something which should keep itself exclusively to Europe and should never penetrate into Africa. Africa by its nature and by anything is democratic. We have the greatest respect for the constitution. Before the advent of the Europeans we knew how we went about our business. But this question of seizure of power by assassination in whatever form should never be encouraged in Africa. Therefore, we must have to congratulate our Government for initiating that get-together which discussed the assassination of President Olympio.

The Governor-General in his speech assured us that the Police would be extended ; that additional units would be provided. But,

above all, we must have to place great premium on the security branch of the Police. Anybody connected with that security branch must be put into mood. What I mean by putting into mood is to ensure that the most capable men are drawn into the security branch and that they are paid well. Otherwise, there would be every tendency of their giving wrong information and crying 'wolf' where there would be no wolf and where there was wolf they would say that there was none and until the country was taken away nobody would know what was happening. So, we must make sure that the people in the security branch are Nigerians who are patriotic and who will always speak the truth and give factual information to the Government. In doing that, I feel that we have to spend the money. We should not put ordinary corporals or first-class constables on that assignment. It is not a question of establishing additional units only but the Government should also make sure that the units which will have to deal with the security of the State will be comprised of men of great honour and men of great pride.

On the defence of this country, the Governor-General made mention of establishing an industry, if I may put it so, which will have to deal with the production of our own arms. We shall then produce arms in this country, and we shall have them in this country. So that we shall not have to look forward to a foreign country to supply us with arms. That is a very good idea. But in doing that, I do wish that our Government will not get themselves tied up to one particular country to advise them. Before they start on the venture they should make sure that they have actually sensed and sized the feelings of the advisers whom they may get from anywhere in the world. Whoever will be of real use to the nation, wherever he may come from, must be put into the show. Otherwise, mere establishment of the industry may spell doom to the nation.

Now may I say a word on the training of pilots. We are still young. We know it will continue. At this moment we have our own flying school quite all right. But I would not advise that we should just cut abruptly the experienced training which our commercial pilots are receiving overseas. Besides our commercial pilots, we must also start now to be thinking more of pilots who will man our fighters when we shall establish our own air

force. To do that at this initial stage we have to be sending men out not by twos or threes. But we must have to send them out in as many groups as we can afford. After all, the present day emphasis is not so much on the army; it is not so much on the navy, but definitely it is admitted that the present day warfare has a lot to do with the air force. Apart from our own internal intrigues which may exist, we must not close our eyes to the fact that our neighbours may be jealous. They may make an attempt at striking us. Even if they do not attempt such things now we must continue to think that the time may come when they will make an attempt at striking us. That being so, we must, as soon as possible, to the extent of our finances and our limitations, have a very powerful air force to defend our right and our liberties.

In this connection, I wish to comment on the performances of the Nigerian Army and the Nigerian Police in the Congo. The Congo trouble has subsided now. But to a great extent the great sons of Nigeria, either those in the Army or those in the Police, have made it clear that before one looks at Nigeria once in face one has to think twice. And I think that the performances of our soldiers and Police in the Congo have made other speculating African States to be very careful. For that, we have to congratulate them and we wish them more glory.

I am very happy we shall be having the cinematograph censorship improved. If there is anything which has helped to destroy morality in this country the cinematograph may not be ruled out of it. We are fed up with all those pictures depicting how to steal, how to break cells, how to break into a bank, how to shoot. We do not want that in this country. It has made many of our children to become thieves. It has sent many of our children to prison. What they see in the pictures they want to put into practice. That being so, I feel it is high time we kept that to Europe and to America. Nowadays we have such pictures as the Indian films. I love to watch the Indian films because in every Indian film there is a moral lesson. One sees less of shootings, less of stealing and less of all these things in them.

Above all, when are we going to start to have our own films, to show our own culture and to show to the world that we ourselves

can think; that we have writers and novelists? When are we going to put our pictures on the screen? That is the thing. That is the most important thing. When we do produce our own films they should be shaped to help develop our country in the way we want it to be developed. That is all the idea behind the scheme.

On this item which deals with information I want to go a little further. Every time you will see the Ministry of Information with their Film Unit going up and down, taking pictures here and there. But they seem to have a wrong notion, that it is perhaps when the Governor-General or the Prime Minister or one of these big shots has a party, that they are to screen the film. The ordinary people who should see the film do not see it, and when we go to cinema, we still have the British pictures as supporting film, just to show us what is happening in Britain. I feel it is time that should stop. We should now have Nigerian films. We want to see how our Ministers are discharging their responsibilities. We want to see how Nigeria is reacting. I know that when our children start to see these things on the screen, their minds will be properly tuned to the song we wish them to sing.

We talk of television in Nigeria. I have no television set because I do not belong to the capitalist group. But I ask, how many Senators have television sets at home? It is too expensive for the ordinary man—£70, £100. It is not meant for the ordinary man. I was not at all happy when somebody said it was going to be expanded. Expanded for what? To make the few continue to enjoy at the expense of the majority? How many can afford to buy a television for £100, £200? It is all luxury. But now if you want us to enjoy it because television has a mission to fulfil—it has to educate us on the activities of our people, it has a job to do in our educational programme—then it is the responsibility of the Government to see that the price is controlled and brought within the reach of the ordinary man, or else, in every important area in every town and every village, let them have what I may call communal television room, where these things will be screened and people will go there to watch at their leisure hours. Otherwise, I will say that every penny spent on television is money ill spent.

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Again on this question, now even in Lagos, most people do not know what is going on in Nigeria. But for the fact that perhaps when Dr Majekodunmi was Senior Specialist in charge of the Lagos Maternity Hospital many people have formed acquaintance of him, even people in Lagos, when they see him in the street, would not have known that this is the Minister of Health; up to the extent of my own good friend, Alhaji Nuhu Bamali, people do not know him at all. We read in the newspapers that one Minister of State, Alhaji Nuhu Bamali, will be going to Mecca to act as Resident Minister for the pilgrims, but people do not know him. And then, how can you expect our children to develop that patriotic spirit, when they do not know the people who are really trying to shapen their future?

You go to the schools, there is no literature, no instructions about the nation. Go to the clubs, no literature, no instructions about the nation. Go to organisations, to trade unions, to the industries, you do not get anything. What these Information people do is that they get all these papers and send all of them to the V.I.Ps, and then it is just the photographs of one and the same set of people that one keeps on seeing everytime. I do not think they are helping to propagate the nation at all.

I was in the States some years ago. When you get to some sides you see that people do not know anything about Nigeria. Last year I went to Geneva. When I was going to Geneva, I tried to advise that sufficient information materials be sent there, because I have been there before and I know what other Governments do. They bring literature and materials about their countries and keep on distributing them, and so the people become aware of the importance of their countries. When I first went to Geneva in 1957, Nigeria was still a colony, but when I went in 1962 (Nigeria being an independent country) I found that we had done nothing since then in the real form to show that Nigeria exists. When the West Indians come there, they organise parties and bring all their calypso music, and then play this music until everybody feels he is in West Indies. But when we are there there is nothing to show that we have a culture. We throw a party, and all we can do is just to drink

and then when everybody goes drunk, we retire to our rooms and sleep.

I remember very well when Guinea became free. I was in London. They sent out a team of actors and everybody in London was moved. But what are we doing to make people know that Nigeria has come to stay? I think that is one thing we have to think very seriously about.

The Governor-General mentioned something about the Victoria Beach. I think in this case, I am challenging the institution of the Obaship of Lagos. This institution is to blame. It appears to be neglecting its duty. Perhaps it has allowed religious bias to outcloud its moral obligation to the people of the country. I saw in a paper in 1948—I looked for the paper in the library but I could not get it—a British Bishop with choristers standing in front of the sea, and they said it was the ancient ceremony of the "Blessing of the Sea". They were robed and carried incense and everything, and it was the ancient ceremony of the "Blessing of the Sea". When I was very young, we used to go to that Bar Beach which is now about five or six miles inside, we used to help the fishermen in drawing their nets, and I knew what that institution used to do when that time came. When it came at Abeokuta, the people knew what to do, and the same happened at Ibadan. But now we allow religious bias and we do not do anything. I am afraid that no amount of pumping one million or two million cubic feet of sand will save us. We must appeal to that institution of the Obaship of Lagos to do what his great grandfathers have done to bring the water under control, otherwise, the Federal Palace Hotel and everything there now may possibly have vanished in about ten years time.

We talk of the mines, and then we talk of allowing capitalist miners to flow into them. I do not think that is what we need in this country at all. I think the time has come when the mine has got to be nationalised. After all, people have derived more than they should derive from our mines, particularly in the North. The mines must be nationalised and then we must take control of them. We must allow the products and revenue coming from the mines to be used for the general betterment of the people of the area. How many of us are rich enough to take shares in any

mining concern? After all, we say we publish it. But by the time we publish it, the people who will take the shares will be these big companies. How many Nigerians in the real sense can invest two million pounds, or two thousand pounds, or let me say even two hundred pounds in a business? The result will be that the shareholders will be either Syrians, Europeans or Americans. The answer is, let us nationalise the mines and let the products and revenue accruable from the mines be applied to the general betterment and the advantage of the people of the area. That is my own opinion.

Then we talk of insurance. People engaged in insurance business should see that some percentage is invested in Nigeria. I mean to say that if we want to work let us work. At this state we must do things to show that we need more money. What prevents Nigeria from taking over the insurance business? The only trouble is that some of us are dormant directors and in the protection of that directorship which we hold, we are not bold enough to come and say that the nation should take it over because, as dormant directors, perhaps we are paid £2,000 or £3,000. That is the thing, otherwise I think in the next ten to twenty years the insurance business of this country must be in the hands of the nation. It must be in the hands of the nation because if we say we want money, we want money. I feel perhaps the Government will have to think about that.

I now come to atomic energy. Yes, I agree we are in an atomic age. There is only one thing that I have to say about this. Before we go into the general acceptance of the principles of the application of the atomic force, we must make sure that we have got our own children fully competent and fully capable of advising us; because after all we are competing with other people. That is all I want to say. A word for the wise is sufficient in this particular matter.

I spoke once on scholarship business in this House. The Governor-General said something about scholarship. But that is not the answer. Let us have a general pool. If Nigeria is Nigeria, then a Nigerian is a Nigerian. I still deplore the attitude where a man will stand for scholarship in the West and losing his chance will come again to the Federal Territory to take another chance, and we have people in the Federal Territory who have

only one place in which to take their chance. Let us all have one place in which to take our chance. Let there be a general collection of funds for scholarship and let scholarship awards be done through one source.

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : Come to the Midwest.

The President : Chief Asemota says you should migrate to the Midwest!

Chief Beyioku : It will interest you, Mr President, to know that he has been discussing with me that he wants a house in Lagos! (Laughter).

As I said, that is the only answer to this question of scholarship. I know we need doctors, we need all these things, but more than anything else, we need craftsmen—people who can work by their hands—and technicians. I can remember years ago the old Marine Department was building launches and lighters, but in a very subtle way the British took it back when they saw that the people were becoming very very proficient. Now we talk of placing the keel for a frigate. Where will it be laid? Somewhere overseas? Now, where are the *SS* or *MV* "Nnamdi Azikiwe", *SS* or something "Tafawa Balewa", etc., being built? Until we start to do these things and produce them here, there can be no hope for this country. So, I feel that more than anything else, let us talk of craftsmen and technicians, but above all let us have one common pool. Let the Northern Region contribute to it, let the Eastern Region contribute to it, let the Western Region contribute to it, and if by the Grace of God they are lucky to have the Midwest Region, let them come and contribute to it. Lagos is the controller, so that anybody who wants scholarship should come to Lagos.

I am happy once again that just as in the case of the legal profession, there will be a sort of disciplinary code for the medical service. The medical service, I am sorry to say, is one of the worst services we are having in this country. People are placing more emphasis on money than on the life of the individual, and if you bring this to the notice of the medical officers, doctors and professors and anybody in charge, they are there to defend the people and say that what they have done is right. A man will be dying in the hospital and nobody cares for him because he has no money, and when he is dead, he is

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carried to the mortuary, the certificate is issued, and that is the end of the man. All these things must stop. The time must come when people should be able to put the hospitals and doctors to court. There have been cases where people have gone to the hospital for one complaint and after treatment (I want to be very decent) they became impotent.

A Senator : Sure ?

Chief Beyioku : Yes. I know of three cases in the General Hospital here in Lagos. One is my personal friend but the man had no money and could not put them to court. This is a very serious issue, no exaggeration. The man is in his forties and has got to spend his life in that condition simply because he has no money.

If you go to the hospital and you want to be admitted, they will ask you, "Do you want specialised treatment or hospital treatment?" Specialised treatment means that you are the patient of the Doctor. But if you want the hospital treatment, you are just dumped there. All these must have to be looked into.

The President : The Senator has only two more minutes.

Chief Beyioku : Mr President, I will ask you the indulgence of an extension.

On the question of trade unions, it is not the question of the trade union as affecting financial returns. There is one thing: the Governments of this country are shy. You say you recognise a trade union organisation, but to what extent nobody knows. What we want in this country is for the Governments to recognise the claims of the unions.

I am sorry that the time at my disposal will take me to the other head—the claims of the unions, the claims of the peasants. Where do the peasants come in in our society? In all this Speech, there is nothing to hold out any ray of hope for the workers of this country and the peasants of this country, and they constitute the majority. They are the people who vote people into power. They are highly technical, but I can analyse them. So that if you want to form a society where one can live in contentment and where peace can be assured, where industrial security can be assured, I feel that we must have to reorientate our minds and our thinking on the problems

of the workers of this country and the problems of the peasants of this country.

I have not concluded my speech, but I shall conclude when I find the first opportunity to do so. But with due respect for your warning, Mr President, I will say I thank the Governor-General for his Speech but I will indicate that I am not satisfied with it at all.

11. a.m.

Senator Chief (Mrs) Wuraola A. Esan : I rise to support the Motion of Thanks for the Speech from the Throne. In doing so, I must express my appreciation on behalf of the women of Nigeria, for I believe I represent them here, no matter from whatever part of the country they come.

At the same time I would like to say that much as this Speech is remarkable and much effort has been made to give us the exact view points of the Government on matters affecting the affairs of the country, yet much has been left out from the Speech.

I support Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku in the matter of the Victoria Island erosion, but not *in toto*. I do not think that we should go back to the issue of the rites of our forefathers, yet there is nothing wrong with it. If there is any ceremony to be performed, well, we could reorientate the performance and make it up-to-date in a sort of way by just marching into the Bar Beach for psychological reasons. This can be done without going against the religion of Islam or the Christian religion, because that is only to tell our people that something is being done to safeguard their interests. Indeed, we will create a sort of psychological effect that will make people believe that we are doing something worthwhile. For that reason, I support Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku. In Ibadan recently we had what we call *Oke-Ibadan*. In the past, it used to be a very tedious day for everybody—you would not be able to cook your food, you could not go to the market, they would be singing abusive songs, and even create a sort of intrigue on the day and also find trouble for a chief or two. But nowadays the educated elements got hold of it and started to review the situation in order to suit the time, and now even university graduates and everybody join and everything is peaceful and orderly, and we still sing our songs, not in an abusive way. Everything is all right for the ordinary people because they know that whether we are

academicians or professionals or ordinary market women, we are looking forward to what is good for the people. Therefore, I support Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku again in this respect.

I would like to support him again in this matter of our health development. We are very glad that the territory of Lagos, at any rate, is going to be very well taken good care of by providing maternity centres all over the area, and women looked after, while more children hospitals are to be built and all sorts of things to make women comfortable as we bring the men into the world and bring them up in the right way for them to come here to legislate against us women.

But at the same time, I would like to support Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku in what he said, that our medical facilities are for the few—the few at the top. There are even people who have money and will never go to the hospitals because of the discrimination that they would see all about, not because the discrimination will be done against them but because people less privileged will be treated in a way that these people will not like. They rather go to a private hospital for treatment than go to our hospitals.

People do not go to hospital in order to enjoy themselves. No one will just go to hospital in order to complain of things that do not happen to him, although in this Lagos they do so, but they do so for a certain reason. But generally, only the foolish and silly women will go to the hospital for no reason whatsoever. When we do go to hospital, we require careful treatment, repeat *careful treatment*. Sometimes the hospital officers X-Ray and do all the preliminary tests of the patient, but on the long run they say that the patient is making fuss, that he is this or that. They would even prescribe only *Codeine* or *A.P.C.*, the medicine that could be bought for a few shillings outside.

If our Minister in charge of health (who is among us this morning and who is a very able and capable person, because he enjoys his work and knows much about his work) will help us on this point, we will be very glad.

The Government has made it clear that in spite of our Independence we are not averse to teaming up with other African States, and for this they have started an organisation that would bring into closer link the independent

states of Africa. This is a very happy thing for us to learn from the Speech from the Throne.

Another gratifying thing is the fact that although we have a policy of non-alignment, yet we are willing and very glad to accept help from both blocs of the world—East and West. We do not allow the past education of our past masters to becloud our judgment.

New measures for our education, health and social services are clearly narrated in the Speech from the Throne, and only people who do not have to do a bit of thinking themselves would condemn our Government for the thorough work they have done in order to bring all these relevant points into the Speech. But, as I said earlier, several things have been left out as far as the common people are concerned.

For instance, the public have been crying for the revision of our Constitution. We do not know what the Government is doing to show the public that it is aware of the unrest that has brought about this cry. The present Constitution is ours, but not totally ours. If we must stand as masters of our own country and as a master nation, the Constitution must be amended.

We read from the papers about this nation becoming a republic. The contributors to these papers felt that the Constitution is not suitable and that in order to achieve this, it should be reviewed. Let us go over this Constitution again and hearken to the wish of the public. The Government should give the public an undertaking that they will do something soon.

In this Speech more fund is going to be devoted to the defence of this country. It was mentioned that this fund must be made available because of the present state of things in the country. This makes people like me to think that we need this fund in order to have internal security. What is meant by internal security is best known to experts. The ordinary people in the street would like to know what is going to be done about political thuggery and body-guards of our big politicians. Is it going to be part and parcel of our internal security? Or will the Government approve that at this stage that we are building up our country people must be killed and maimed because someone just wants to be a member of the House?

The Government is silent on the question of the poor students who for no fault of theirs

[SENATOR MRS ESAN]

have no money to complete their studies. I think it is the duty of the Federal Government to devise ways and means of giving assistance to students in this position. Not many mothers and fathers have money to send their children to universities. There are scholarships in Nigeria and we know how these scholarships are distributed. Majority of the scholarships go to the sons of the people who are at the top. Scholarships do not often go to people who deserve them but to people who have the voice to be heard. The Government should say something about this. We will not allow our brains to be wasted; we do not want intelligent people to be discouraged because they have not found the few pounds they need urgently in order to be capable citizens of this great country.

Another thing which I think the Government has not touched is this question of payment of salary to Ministers and Members of the House. If we go right round the country now, we will see that the ordinary people are suffering for scarcity of money. There is no good trade, no gain, not much work, you work all day long without any gain and yet we come here to sit down and receive money urgently needed somewhere else. Sacrifice must be made from the top to the bottom and not from the bottom to the top. There is nothing wrong if we are told that for the time being while we are planning for the development of our country, Members of the House should only get such and such an amount and nothing more. If we cannot abide with it, well let all of us go out and allow other people who are willing to come in. There is nothing wrong with that.

Several Senators : There will be nobody.

Senator (Mrs) Esan : There will be somebody; it is because we have laid much emphasis on this payment. Even if we are not here, the country will go on. A tree cannot make a forest. Let us all decide that we are going to agree with the decision of the Government on this point. I want a drastic cut in the salaries of Members of the House.

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku : Going step by step is not sufficient.

Senator (Mrs) Esan : If going step by step is not sufficient, I have made a suggestion and I am sticking to it. I would even go further to suggest that the membership of the House

should be reduced. It is good for the British to say that a Constituency should be able to send one Member. Why do we want that? It is because they had sown the seed of discord among us before they left. Why did they want us to send so many Members to come and sit down doing nothing other than to shout "I concur"? We want few people who will work and work well, and we have them. Do not let us deceive ourselves.

Our Ministers are doing their work efficiently and I am impressed. When we were coming here at first, our British masters did not think we were going to be successful in so short a time. What is happening in the country is not the fault of our Ministers all over the country; it is because we lack association. They do their work very well. (*Hear, hear*). If your neighbour is doing well, they will come and tell you that he or she is doing well because he or she is cheating you. Then you start to suspect. This is exactly what is happening in Nigeria now—there is a lot of unrest.

If we must do something for the rapid development of our country we need money. We need not go borrowing every time; we have money here. Let us put together the few pennies we have and use them for the benefit of our people. We should not come here to sit down. We have eight Legislatures in Nigeria—two in the West, two in the North, two in the East and two in the Federal territory and very soon we shall have ten. There is no need to have two many Legislatures. We live to learn and if we make mistakes, then we correct our mistakes. Let us correct our mistakes by experience instead of coming to sit down. Many of us are doing nothing but criticize. As one Senator has rightly said, I would like the Government to set up a committee to look into this matter.

I do not want to stop on this question of remuneration for Members of Parliament. In this country, we have very rich civil servants and there is nobody to tell us how they got their wealth. It is high time the Government looked into this matter.

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : They must have been working very hard.

Senator (Mrs) Esan : Yes, very hard indeed. There is no reason why we should go on crying about unemployment. We have many hands to do the job and I think we

should pay less than we are paying now and fill the vacant posts with those who are now unemployed. This, on the other hand, will make the work lighter, and nobody will die as a result. Nobody will die because three or four shillings have been taken out of his salary. The Government should give serious consideration to this question of giving employment to those who are now unemployed.

A Senator : The Senator cannot do that with skilled labour.

Senator (Mrs) Esan : I am talking of unskilled labour.

A Senator : And price control perhaps ?

Senator (Mrs) Esan : No. I have not come to that and I do not want to be rushed. I shall come to that point.

As I was saying, some of our civil servants are very rich. If we give a penny to everybody in Nigeria, there will be people who will have two pence and others who will have nothing. If we distributed the wealth of the country evenly, there would still be poor people because some people would spend less in order to save something. Yet there are civil servants who have become wealthy anyhow and at a debatable speed.

When the proposed Councils are set up, I am urging the Government to set up one that will study the source of the wealth of these civil servants. We have been told that at one time nobody could own more than two houses in India without a thorough investigation as to how he came to possess them. But if one can afford to own three, and the source of one's wealth is legitimate, I understand the Government will not mind. But here someone who has not got £5,000 can spring up overnight as a contractor and in two weeks' time, he will be found riding in big cars, and having so many houses.

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : Is the Senator jealous of that ?

Senator (Mrs) Esan : Yes, I am jealous of anybody who does not work hard and yet accumulates money.

I come now to the control of prices. I know that it is very difficult to control prices in this country and we, women, are the worst offenders. If we are asked to sell a measure of *gari* for two shillings and we find that we are not making a good sale, we will as a matter of fact, undersell the measure and increase the

price of other commodities in order to offset the loss. And no one will come out and say these women are selling their *gari* at a reduced or inflated price. The public is not yet intelligent enough to come and give this sort of information to the authorities.

I know how difficult it is for Government to control the prices of commodities in the market, and the markets are the chief providers of foodstuffs in this country. Not very many people go to the shops to buy foodstuffs. People buy mostly from the markets. The retailers buy in a sort of hire-purchase form, that is, they buy and pay at the end of an agreed period. As a result the prices of commodities purchased under this system are also inflated. Definitely, things like this are very hard for the Government to control but we are asking the Government to do everything in their power to bring about a measure of control so that the poor people may be able to reap the benefit of some of the things that are more nutritious in content and that our children may be able to grow up in a sound condition and mothers spared the pains of carrying their children to the hospital more often than is necessary. What is more, doctors will also be free from embarrassment.

We generally complain of the treatment we receive from doctors but it is true that these doctors are harassed at times and they have to exercise a great deal of patience to keep not only their own temper in order to answer questions put to them but also their health.

It is expected that the Government will be able to do something about this price control which, I am sure, will at least help to combat some of our problems.

Another point is that sometimes I think that we are always keen on giving the impression that Nigeria is not only a very big country but also a wealthy one. I am not saying that we should not support boxing; I know that men very much like to watch, just for the pleasure of it, two people hitting each other. But I do not see how we can spare £65,000 in order to let you men go and watch two men "kill" each other. That is my opinion and not the opinion of other Senators because I am the only woman here. But if Senators can go out, they will find women complaining about this £65,000 that has been guaranteed for two people to come and fight.

[SENATOR MRS ESAN]

It is good that we have sports and that people engage in sporting activities because they help to give us healthier mind, body and brain, but surely, there are other forms of sports and I will never go and watch anybody or any group of people hitting one another. I know that there are people who only delight in watching boxing because they are frustrated, they are not happy themselves. If we want to be happy, the only way is not by going to watch for pleasure, two people hitting each other.

I also want to touch the question of cinema. It should not be assumed that because I am in the midst of men, I have the outlook of men. We women are very much disturbed when our children go and watch only gun-slitting and people dying in the streets, and other films displaying thieves and hooligans. In the long run these hooligans and thieves are taken to the hospital and the police begin to investigate. I do not think that our police officers have time for that. Our police officers are meant to keep the law and generally speaking, Nigerians are peace abiding people.

The President: The Senator has only five minutes more.

Senator Mrs Esan: Thank you, Sir. We want to respect the law, and I do not think that to teach our future generation the way to kill one another and disobey the law is the best sort of education to give to our children. So, the less we talk about expanding this sort of cinematography, films, and things like that the better it will be for us.

Lastly, I like and admire the Speech, but ordinarily people in the street must be taken good care of, and when further Speeches are going to be made consideration must be given to the fact that the Speeches are not made only for Members of the House, business men, and the intelligentsia of the country; they are put forward as service to the nation.

With these few remarks, I support the Motion.

The President: This is a convenient time to have a break. Sitting is suspended for 20 minutes.

Sitting suspended: 11.33 a.m.

Sitting resumed: 11.53 a.m.

Senator M. B. Chukwubike: I rise to associate myself with all the good sentiments

expressed by the Mover of the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor-General for his gracious Speech from the Throne. All the praises showered on him are deserved. I congratulate him immensely for the progressive and comprehensive Speech which he ably delivered to the Joint Meeting of Parliament. I also congratulate the Federal Government for its steady efforts in preserving the stability of the State since the dawn of independence barely twenty-nine months ago.

This is the third Speech from the Throne by this our indigenous Governor-General, the person who we all know lighted the fire of nationalism here in this country. Reading through the Speech one finds that time moves and we are stepping along with it. The Speech contains progress made in the past twelve months and also the greater ones to be pursued in the next financial year. All these achievements are not without his wise and fatherly counsel.

Mr President, Sir, permit me to say a few words about our Governor-General's official tour of the Regions. His official tour of the Regions is a very wonderful magnet for peace, unity and love. He, unlike some of our Ministers who find it hard to leave Lagos when not on overseas tour, tours the Regions and talks to the common men, women and children. What I really want to say here is to appeal that such tours should be more often than now, and that people in the rural areas should be given the privilege to see him as the father of the nation. They see him as an able politician and a leader of a great political party.

Now, may I say a few words in praise of our Government for the able and firm manner in which they carried out smoothly and efficiently the affairs of the Federation for the past twelve months. The year 1962 carried with it series of delicate and terrible events. But like gold through furnace, the Government emerged more solid, brighter, and more determined to face any challenge in the future.

Our Ministers who are the mouth piece of the Government deserve our praise for the laudable role they played in the ban of nuclear test, and in maintaining peace and brotherly love among Africans. It gladdens the heart of all well-meaning persons in Nigeria to behold our own man initiating plans and taking active part in the interest of world peace. This is a

credit to our Government and a testimony that Nigeria is destined to lead Africa for we in this country believe in winning by negotiations, appeals, and tolerance. The other nations of the world use bullets and other forces to win people to their side.

I would like at this juncture to say a few words which I believe would be of use to our representatives in the next Conference of African Heads of States which is scheduled to take place in Addis Ababa sometime in May. I want our representatives to bear in mind that anything short of unity of African States would do our continent no good.

Bloc is foreign to us here in Africa, and it also carries with it many evil effects. The proverb which says that united we stand and divided we fall is very appropriate here. I, therefore, suggest that both the Monrovia and Casablanca Blocs should give way to United African States. All independent African States should together fight the cause of African peace and unity. We do not want political blocs in Africa. For the independent African States to survive all these waves of planned terrorism and *coup d'etat* and to enjoy the fruits of the hard-won freedom, unity is imperative.

We all know that outside influences are responsible for all these unfortunate incidents which threaten different Governments of Africa. Time has come when we shall tell this our unhappy friends that open enemies are better than secret ones.

If you would permit me, I would give a few examples of these awful incidents. First, innocent Lumumba was tortured and murdered. Secondly, many unsuccessful attempts have been made on the life of the Ghana President, and these claimed lives of many innocent souls. Dr Nkrumah should be told in a constitutional way, whether he is a saint or sinner.

The Togo President, Sylvanus Olympio, was brutally murdered. The Liberian President, William Tubman, became a target. It could be any other head of State any day. There is no peace in Mali, Ivory Coast, Algeria, and so many other countries in Africa. I guess and believe very strongly that unity will save this ugly situation.

Many African countries attained full independence as a result of collective work of

the African leaders. Now that we bear all the burden of independence, nothing but unity will make us take our rightful places among other progressive countries of the world. We must not forget that the eyes of the world are on us, and that certain people thought that they would stand to gain in event of confusion in any African State.

I appeal to our Prime Ministers and to other African Heads of State to negotiate, but not to yield to anything short of a United African State.

I have not much remark to make, but I would have loved to see in the Speech elaborate plans of the Government to take over many more trunk B roads in the Regions so that the Regional Governments would be enabled to construct more new roads. Even though we have better roads in the Eastern Region, many towns have not motorable roads. Without good roads, rural areas will not be able to benefit from the Six-Year Development Plan.

I would also have loved to see in the Speech definite plans to build more asylum in all the Regions, bearing in mind the unfortunate increase in mental cases in the whole country. The only way to help this set of people and the public is to restrict their movements in the asylum.

The nullification of the last national census was the highest part the Government served in sustaining the unity of the Federation. The awful and unfortunate incident of the census threatened the unity of the Federation. Our cool-headed Prime Minister, with his tolerant and co-operating Premiers, saved the Federation from breaking into pieces by the nullification of the census. To uphold the unity of this country, no sacrifice is too much. Let the expenses on the last census be a sacrifice for the unity of the country. As it is said that mistakes are raw materials for progress and that the important thing is to profit by our mistakes, I hope that this second move will be a success.

I want to say a few words about the Police. It is very encouraging that the strength of our Police Force will continue to be increased. It is indeed a right move in the right direction, bearing in mind the present wave of crime in the country. But I would like to know why our elementary school leavers are now refused entry into our Police Force. I know that the answer will be that we want efficiency, but I

[SENATOR CHUKWUBIKE]

feel that we are too fast. I feel that if some fortunate ones pass the stipulated examination they should be taken.

I must say, and associate myself with the views expressed by the Mover of the Motion, that something is wrong with our sports and sportsmen. Either we have false organisation or we have false men. Just of recent our footballers were not only defeated at Ghana but were also badly disgraced. This repeated shameful display must stop. We must either discard taking part in international matches or improve the method of our organisation and play. The Minister in charge of sports should do something about this.

Many of us were hoping that the issue of a republican constitution for Nigeria would be contained in the Speech from the Throne. We would like to know before this present House rises, what arrangements our Government has made about this issue.

The Government is silent over the question of aerodrome for Onitsha which has been so much talked of as well as over the Benin-Shagamu road. If the Government is no longer prepared to build this aerodrome, it is good to make a categorical statement about it.

Without taking much time, I support the Motion.

Senator Salahu Fulani : I wish to associate myself with all the speeches that have already been made by previous speakers. The Mover of this Motion of Thanks left no stone unturned, and there is no doubt that the person who is holding this high office, the Governor-General, is a round peg in a round hole. He is not only the best man for the office, but has sweated and worked hard for it and by dint of hard work he has been spared to reap the fruits of his labour.

The noble and brilliant speech of our Governor-General and all that it embodies are very encouraging for the economic, social and industrial development of our country.

It is also fitting, before dealing with certain parts of the speech, that mention must be made as regards the wonderful co-operation of all the members of the Cabinet in the real sense of responsibility that had helped to save the situation in the Western Region. I have to recall that without the prompt attention of our

Government, a blur would have been made into our history. With your permission, I quote : this book is by one William Willard. He says :

"Whatever we may think of Africa's sudden plunge into self-government, the plunge has been made and we must live with it. We cannot view the immediate future with much hope, nor the long future with complete despair. It is quite probable that Africa during the next hundred years will have more internal troubles than any other continent on earth. The internal troubles will cause external troubles, possibly even the disruption of the United Nations, and world war. These eventualities can be avoided only by wise statesmanship, profound understanding of the African's own difficulties, and appreciation of the increasing contributions he will make to society as time goes on. The negro definitely has something to give and we can use it to advantage."

The quotation is from a book by William Willard who had visited 105 countries of the world. There is no doubt that but for the wise statesmanship of our Ministers with a profound knowledge of our difficulties, affairs in the Western Region would have gone beyond our control. It is up to us to prove our ability to sink our differences in spite of ethnical, cultural and social background. Recent events which nearly shattered our hopes of unity are a testimony of our ability to meet any emergency without external help.

It is appropriate here to recall the zeal and hard work put in by our worthy Dr Majekodunmi whose initiative, natural resourcefulness, coupled with unrivalled knowledge of the political affairs of the Western Region had achieved a feat thought to be insurmountable by human endeavour. Within a period of six months he had restored peace and tranquility in place of political blunder and chaos that had been created by certain over-ambitious politicians of the Western Region. I do wish that this Senate will join me in raising my hat and turban in his praise.

For all these achievements, the Prime Minister and all his Ministers are to be praised for their devotion to duty and sincerity of purpose. We are very proud of them and our implicit confidence in them is undisputable.

Now, I wish to touch a few facts about the Speech from the Throne. I would like to refer to the forthcoming Conference of Heads

of African and Malagasy States which is due to take place in Addis Ababa some time this year. It was mentioned that the reports would be laid for ratification during the present session.

There is one observation which I would like to emphasise. It is believed that the main task before the Conference is to bridge the gap between the Monrovia and the Casablanca groups. I quote, with your permission, Mr President—

“Dr Nkrumah is anxious that the outside world should recognise him as African leader. He outstrips Colonel Nasser and Toure as a potential leader of a united Africa. He has been successful in federating Guinea with Ghana and is all out to annex other neighbouring countries.”

This shows the importance of sending real first-class statesmen to the forthcoming Conference, for Nigeria is not only the largest but also the richest country in Africa. I quote again, Mr President :

“As Nigeria goes so goes Africa”.

Therefore, nobody should be allowed to take the initiative from us. It is the desired policy of this country to recognise every country, irrespective of size, as a sovereign state, and it is only by doing this that each one of them can sit as equal partner. Such a policy augurs well for the future of African States. Therefore, I strongly appeal to all who are going to the Conference not only to place Nigeria on the map but also to prove to every delegate that Nigeria is teeming with politicians of the highest calibre.

I would like to thank the Prime Minister and his colleagues for their foresight in having in mind the necessity of increasing the strength of the Nigeria Police Force. Every consideration should be given to the welfare of Nigerian forces, and better and modern amenities should be the main aim of the Government. A contented and well-disciplined army is an asset to any country. We hear of unhappy events in other countries both near and far. One of the causes of a *coup d'etat* is discontentment. We are happy that urgent consideration is being given to the welfare of our Army, Police, Air and Naval Forces. We do hope that those who are responsible for the maintenance of law and order will bear this point in mind.

The Governor-General in his Speech made mention of the consideration that is being given to making prisoners useful citizens. This is indeed very heartening in view of the increasing number of prisoners in recent years.

The Federal Government is also to be congratulated on the extension of the railway to Bornu. This has been a reality and will certainly bring immeasurable prosperity to the areas concerned. But Nigeria is such a huge country and only a fraction of the country has been served. Loans, both internal and external, should be raised to ramify the railway system to other parts of the Federation, particularly Bornu to Yola. This area is very thickly populated and there is need for evacuation of produce.

It is gratifying to note from the speech that extensive road development is being envisaged. One would only pray that road development would not be limited to Lagos. It is high time that some trunk “B” roads were taken over by the Federal Government. Anybody who has travelled on the trunk “B” roads will agree with me that the state of the roads is appalling. Therefore, I strongly suggest that a Ministry of Roads Construction be set up.

Mention must be made of supply of electricity to meet growing demands in the rural areas. Rural areas should not be overlooked in the supply of this amenity because the bulk of the population comes from the rural areas.

I would like to touch one important point which has been dealt with in the Speech from the Throne and that is the question of smuggling. There will be smuggling as long as there is a place to harbour the smuggled goods. There will be smuggling as long as there is ready market for the smuggled goods. No legislation, no rule, no law, however powerful it may be against smuggling, can succeed unless very wide publicity is given against smuggling to show the evils in dealing with smuggled goods. Secondly, arrangements should be made with the Spanish Government not to annex really, but if possible to arrange for the taking over of Fernando Po Island from the Spanish Government. Otherwise, no amount of good can come out of that if we do not try to get that Island from them. I am

[SENATOR SALAHU FULANI]

not suggesting that we should go the Indian way and try to seize the Fernando Po Island. But I am afraid that if we do not try to persuade the Spanish Government to co-operate with us and let us have men in Fernando Po who will help to fight smuggling there will be no end to smuggling.

Before I resume my seat, I would like to say this. Last year, one Senator here did mention that a Ministry for Rural Areas should be set up. No mention of that was made in the Speech from the Throne. It is very important because the people who live in large areas like Lagos Kano or Jos cannot cure the diseases that are killing the people in the rural areas. I am one of the people who come from the rural areas. It is no use trying to say that we are trying to bring welfare to a lot of people in this country without trying to extend amenities to the rural areas from where the bulk of the wealth of this country comes.

I beg to support.

Senator Dr A. A. N. Orizu : I have very little to contribute to this debate in support of the Motion because Senator Beyioku has dwelt on the whole thing and several Members have completed it, and there is no reason why we should delay the House with very long speeches.

However, I want to touch very few points.

Ratification of the Charter of the Inter-African and Malagasy Organisation of December 1962—that one is very good and it is a sign that our Federal Government is pursuing the policy of African unity with vigour and courage. It is also necessary for us to understand that in Africa to-day, Nigeria is being looked upon not only because we are huge in Africa—because Nigeria is not as large as one-fifth of one of the largest countries in the world—but because in Nigeria also we have lots of good brains, people who have vision.

I was talking to one commissioner from Nyasaland yesterday in the Governor-General's premises, and he said that there was one distinct mark which kept Nigeria away from all other African countries, and that was that in the beginning of Nigerian nationalism there was a very good principle and motive, there was a philosophy in addition. He said that somebody had vision in Nigeria and following that vision with expressed philosophy,

that expressed philosophy was followed by other expressed philosophies absent from other African countries.

With that, we have a mission in Africa. Not a mission of participation in a partial way, but a mission of showing a philosophy of contentment, a capacity to tolerate others.

Now, the Niger River Commission—the abrogation of the Berlin Treaty of 1885—this makes me very happy because, as I said last year, Nigeria is very difficult. It is very easy to make a man to be free from slavery, but it is almost impossible to take slavery out of a man who has been a slave. It is a fact that we have been made to be free from slavery. What we are now doing is to take slavery out of our minds. Therefore, this abrogation of the Treaty is one of those yokes which we are taking ourselves out of.

The non-aligned policy which the Governor-General mentioned is also good. We know in psychology that man cannot have a mind of his own unless that mind is trained. Independence consciousness cannot be justified without training. Therefore, Nigeria will be intelligent in this question of non-alignment, otherwise we shall be aligned and talking about non-alignment.

I was very happy about the question of more missions to be sent to the Americas and the Far East. That also shows the broad-mindedness and broad outlook to the world of the Federal Government and also their attachment to the principles of the U.N.O.

Consciousness of internal security—man is a fearful animal. One of the greatest drives of man is fear for security, and I am sure that after the Togo man was killed everybody was up and doing. Therefore, I know that when the appropriation for the Police is made in the Cabinet, no Minister will oppose it. I am glad about that, provided also that we train our policemen to understand more and more about the social and political aspects of their function in the society as peace-loving officers and not people who go out to war in places of peace. On the activities of our Police, I have to say that since after independence, this has been marvellous. We know many things that have happened already in this country of which, without the Police, Togo would have been a better land than Nigeria to-day.

To have an independent Army, Navy, and Air Force will only indicate complete absolute sovereignty with integrity and security. I think it was one man in Nigeria who once said that democracy begins with the stomach. I put it in another way now: sovereignty begins with security. You do not say you are sovereign when somebody else is controlling your security. How can you be sovereign and somebody tells you what to tell your wife to cook for you, and you say you are the master of the house and you have a wife? Therefore, our country cannot talk about sovereignty in its absolute sense until such a day as our Navy and our Army and Air Force and everything that comes into it will be in a big way.

I remember once, a writer while making a joke of African countries, wrote a book called "New Worlds are coming", and in that book he was talking about Liberia during the World War. He said that when the World War was on and Germany was fighting against England and the others and Liberia declared its support for America and brought out one ship, one this, one that. Look at the way he put it! I am not saying this with any insult to Liberia, I am only trying to show you how African countries are ridiculed abroad. That was an American writing about Liberia. If you read the comment, you will just laugh. It is such a funny thing—how the people declared war with no ship, nothing, just nothing. He said the country existed for ninety-five years of freedom without ninety-five miles of good road.

That is the way they want Africans to look so that when they talk about our freedom they will be thinking of a freedom in which we are free without being free, in which we relax because of mental laziness and physical laziness also. We refuse to understand that we have to do our own things. So the Navy, the Army, the Air Force should be free. That means that something has to be done. So that when the Prime Minister says we shall say no, not *we* the Hausas, or the Yorubas, or the Ibos, or the Efiks, or the Itsekiris—no, because one machine gun, one electronic machine gun will just finish all of us in two minutes. But when he says *we*, and there is something behind him—bomb—then the *we* is not *we*, but the bomb is the *we*.

Cinematograph.—I associate myself with Senator Beyioku, and I will not say more as

he has expounded that. What he said about the morality of our nation and cinematograph in this country is perfectly right. It is high time we started. The advantage we have over other nations is that when they got into industrialisation, they did not know what they were up to, and what that meant. During the stages of industrial revolution in Europe, when this was going on, bringing civilisation gradually, they did not know what they were going into. But we have already observed their own society and we have seen the evils of these things. Why then can we not, because of our own superior advantage, because of historical events, agree that the most recent men on earth are the oldest generation because they have seen everything including what the old men have seen? So we are the oldest in the whole phase of human creation, we who live now in 1963 are the oldest of all men that ever lived because we have seen everything they have seen and we are seeing ourselves. If we are the oldest let us act so. Nigeria and African countries happen to be the oldest nations because we have seen all the mistakes of the younger ones—those who got their independence early are the younger ones.

Cinematography and all the other items of publicity are the media through which people reflect their morality and I am saying that our own is going lower and lower. At Onitsha the other day girls had the audacity to come to declare that they want to be prostitutes in Nigeria. I was profoundly disturbed to note that the nation has come to a point where women can come out and say these things. I wish a day will come when we shall return to old Africa when these women shall be killed.

I have to jump, to make a real broad jump, because I have little time to spend on all these things.

Turning to telecommunications, that is good. I have only one thing to say here, that is, while this goes on, Nnewi should not be neglected. I am talking about myself now. I want the Ministers to know that I have no telephone in my house and that the day we went to the U.N.O. every member called his home except myself.

Senator Alhaji the hon. Nuhu Bamalli (Minister of State): Did I call my home?

Senator Dr Orizu : The Senator called his home.

I want to say that this town happens to be one of the leading towns in Iboland, much more in Onitsha Division. It has more than eight schools and secondary schools with many Police Stations and Training Schools. It is the most populated town in the whole of Onitsha Division. We have not sufficient telephones. They put one there and every day they say they are going to establish something and yet nothing has been done.

I am using this opportunity to tell these Ministers here to give me and Nnewi telephone.

I am very happy about the idea of extending the facilities at the School of Mines and I associate myself partly with Senator Chief Beyioku. We have not defined what our Government is, whether we are socialists and if so what shade of socialism. There are many shades of socialism. We have democracy, but there are many types of democracy. The only thing is that there is a line of demarcation between Communism and all the other *isms*. Now we do not know which we are following.

I suggest that our Governments should educate our people more and more in geology, in mining, encourage our people to take shares and in course of time as God would have it our people shall become millionaires and take over. Those who about twenty years ago said that Nigerians can become Ministers were regarded as mad men, absolute mad men. I am saying that in ten years' time we shall have not less than twenty millionaires in Nigeria, if we are going to be capitalistic; but if we are not going to be capitalistic, I reserve my statement.

I come now to National Agency for High Level Manpower Training. This was supposed to be established in order to provide a reliable basis for statistics and educational planning. I do not know why our Federal and Regional Governments are blind to one simple thing. We have known how other countries establish their scholarship schemes and how they work to help their countries. Make scholarship grant functional. In this country I do not know whether the Government is aware that the problem of education is that there are no teachers in elementary schools, in secondary schools and in teacher training institutions and we have no specific way of getting teachers. Teachers want to get out and get money. All

these talks about education is nonsense unit. this country has planned in a functional way. That is, if Nigeria decides that in three years' time we will be able to make machine tools, bicycles, motor cars, we may be able to get the whole number of boys we want in ten years, set down. Government will decide on those to be given scholarship. These students will be classified according to their own functions. If you go in for this scholarship for engineering or mining you sign a contract that when you come home you must put that particular institution into use. You cannot change or it becomes a crime punishable by imprisonment. This is not being harsh. That is the only condition of achievement. I am saying that our educational scholarships should be functional. If it is not that way we shall never gain anything at all.

Now I come to information. I like the idea of publicity but one finds the same people in the pictures every day and wherever one goes. We use our national machinery to benefit only a few men who always appear in these pictures. We do not know who is Dr Esin, or Chief Beyioku; we do not know who is the President of the Senate. The only people are those few men in the Information and their friends whom they like in the Cabinet. That cannot go on indefinitely. If we are going to have our Information the first thing they should do is to set up the highest organ for the Federal Government and publicise it.

I am sorry to raise this matter but I have to speak up. In America they had Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower and now Kennedy. Of these four Presidents only one was not a Senator before he became President—Eisenhower. Roosevelt was a Senator, Truman was a Senator, and even the young Kennedy was a Senator. In all countries of the world Senators, wherever you have Senators, constitute the highest Legislators. In this country I do not know whether there has been a definite plan to make the Senate an impotent organisation. First of all, we are not sufficiently provided for. Secondly, if you go to any function our Senators are not recognised as being superior even to the Ministers in the House of Representatives. With the exception of Senator Dr Majekodunmi and Senator Dr Esin, we are superior to all the Ministers in the House of Representatives.

If this is the case, how much more about the President of the Senate? The President of

the Senate, apart from the Governor-General, should have the highest respect in the whole nation anywhere, any time. For the whole year 1962-63, I have never with my eyes seen the picture of my President anywhere in Nigeria and yet he goes to all functions. Every day you see this Minister and that; the President of the Senate is there, but not a single picture of him is to be seen. This thing has got to stop.

Let me give you an example. I can only give you an example of what I know very well, and I will give the example of Senator Chief Obi—the Senator should please not take offence. Why is he here? This man founded the Ibo nation. He struggled for years and years under severe criticisms before he came here. Why is it that now that he has arrived here, the nation would not know him? Is it a crime? All the time they think of themselves alone. Why? Maybe they do not know the protocol. I want to explain the word 'protocol'—and I am a student of Political Science—and I want you to check from anywhere you like. Most of the Secretaries, that is, the Ministers in America, are not members of the House, they are from outside; but here members of the Cabinet are from the House. Any member of the junior House is junior to any Senator anywhere.

I tell you frankly if you go to America and see the President anywhere it is the Senators who sit near him before those Secretaries. Here in this country, even in the Regions, the Regional Ministers are senior to Senators; you go out with them they do not know that there is somebody else. It is high time that something was done to make the Senate a Senate or scrap it. If it is because we are selected, well, let us fight the election, so that we have a place in this country; and I challenge the Minister of Information that he should right now begin to know that this House is angry that the Senate is put behind in everything. And I would suggest that if this be the case, one of the best ways to know our significance is to stop our House sitting concurrently with the House of Representatives. We can come when they have completely finished and people will know that we have come and they can come and listen to us. These things are getting too much. Are we supposed to be buried alive?

Several Senators : No.

Senator Dr Orizu : Now the Minister of Information should also know that the nature of our Government is not properly advertised—the policy of the Government, what it is, how democratic it is, and how balanced our Prime Minister is. This type of thing will always come out. For example, look at the marvellous function of a Senator. Do you think that a Member of the lower House could have done what Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi had done in Ibadan?

Several Senators : No.

Senator Dr Orizu : That type of thing should be advertised properly by the Ministry of Information. When trouble came to the nation it was a Senator who was sent over there to make peace, and he did it. (*Applause*). The Information section should begin to defend our political principles so as to enable other countries to have an idea of these principles. I am really very sorry for this Ministry of Information because they do not know their job. All they know is to advertise themselves. Everytime they advertise the Prime Minister they put their heads out with that of the Prime Minister.

Another thing is that Senators will see that we are the only independent organ in the whole country that does not work according to pattern. It is necessary for this nation to know that they have fathers and a special fund should be set up to give Senators a very large allowance with which to travel in their constituencies, so that when there is political trouble they may deal with it as non-members of any political party. Senators should be allowed to travel in their areas and allowance should be given to them for the purpose of popularising the nation for unity.

I mentioned last time that there must be a Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs. It was not mentioned in the Speech from the Throne again, and I am wondering what the Cabinet is thinking about this. Do they think they can afford to ignore such a thing permanently in this country? There should be a Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs so that we may be able to advise this Government on issues on foreign relationship. We are supposed to be mature and we must be consulted. I say again there should be a Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs.

[SENATOR DR ORIZU]

I wanted to say a great deal but I have not got the sort of voice to speak, that is why you do not see me here often. I have to stop till next time.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

The President : Order. It is now the moment of interruption. Debate to be resumed—Tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Senate do now adjourn—(THE MINISTER OF HEALTH).

Senator Abdul Salami Yusifu : As the Minister of Health has said that the Senate will adjourn most likely on Saturday, there is still pending a matter which concerns all Senators and that is about our consolidated allowance—

The President : Order, order ! You know I do not like to interrupt Senators. But let us do this thing properly. When a Senator

wishes to raise a matter on Adjournment, let him put a small paper across to the Table and to the Minister so that what he says is not lost. Somebody will then be able to answer what the Senator is saying. After Senator Yusifu had said this thing nobody would be able to answer because he did not give any notice that he was going to raise this matter. Would you try and raise the matter tomorrow ; it may be a very important matter.

Whereupon Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku 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.

Original Question accordingly put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Senate do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at ten minutes to one o'clock.

SENATE OF THE FEDERATION
OF NIGERIA*Friday, 29th March, 1963**The Senate met at 9 a.m.*

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

NOTICE OF MOTION

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

ELECTION OF MEMBERS

The Minister of Health (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): Mr President, Sir, I rise to move:

"That the following Senators be members of the Committee of Selection of the Senate—Senator Chief Z. C. Obi, Senator Chief T. A. Odotola and Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale."

Minister of State (Senator Dr the hon. E. A. Esin): Sir, I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That Senator Chief Z. C. Obi, Senator T. A. Odotola and Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale be members of the Committee of Selection of the Senate.

ORDER OF THE DAY

GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH (MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS):

ADJOURNED DEBATE ON QUESTION (28TH MARCH):

Question again proposed, That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency, the Governor-General, 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."

9.07 a.m.

Senator J. K. Nzerem: Mr President, Sir, most of the points I had intended to speak on have been dealt with by some of the previous speakers, but for the purpose of emphasis I am going to repeat some of them.

The Federal Parliament has once more been treated to a very exciting and soul-stirring Speech from the Throne by His Excellency the Governor-General. The Parliamentarians, no less than the nation, have learnt to look forward with eagerness to this annual oration from the great Zik of Africa. As usual the Speech has X-rayed Nigeria's domestic and foreign policy for the coming financial year. One cannot but commend the foresight of the Government for its proposals therein.

The item which strikes me as very important if not the most important is the projected expansion of the Police Force. It is a well-known fact that in many parts of the Federation to-day, mobile and armed gangs of robbers operate and render both the life and property of innocent citizens unsafe and insecure. We look up to the Government for better-equipped mobile police squads to counteract the notorious activities of these anti-social elements.

The Nigeria Police both at home and abroad has proved itself to be a force to be reckoned with and we must acknowledge publicly our indebtedness to it. It is now common knowledge that Nigeria owes a large measure of its continued internal as well as external security to the vigilance of the Police. It is a matter of pride to know that indigenous Police Officers now play an ever-increasing role in the important work of guarding our internal security.

The time appears to have come when the arm of the Police Force responsible for the security of the nation should be completely manned by Nigerians. This will reflect our independent status and give our young Police Officers opportunity to get to the top.

The Federal Government is to be congratulated on what it has done and continues to do for the rehabilitation of prisoners. In most of the Federal Prisons to-day one is faced with the happy reality that the old concept of prison as a place for punitive measures is fast breaking down, giving way to the idea that it is a place for more humane treatment. Prisoners to-day engage in such trades as tailoring, cloth weaving, carpentry, brick laying and a host of other things. The Government should pursue vigorously all measures designed to make every ex-convict a better man or woman, physically as well as mentally, so that in the not too distant

[SENATOR NZEREM]

future, it will be a thing of the past for an ex-convict who has served up to one year or more to leave the prison still illiterate.

Our Cinematograph Act is certainly antiquated. The kind of pictures which are often screened in local picture houses seems to suggest the absence of film censorship, or at least that the provision for censorship is inadequate. Films which depict half-naked women and those which seem to canonise shooting, robbery, and other forms of gangsterism must never be allowed to see the light of day in this country as they tend to corrupt the morals of both young and old.

The road system of this country based on the narrow roads when motor traffic was virtually non-existent must be kept constantly under review. Many of the roads are unreasonably winding. While the construction of new roads is desirable, the necessity of widening and straightening the existing ones must not be lost sight of. In awarding contracts for road construction, the deciding factor should be the contractor's ability to deliver the goods rather than the colour of his skin. In other words, while indigenous contractors are to be encouraged, I consider it is morally wrong to give them contracts to the tune of thousands of pounds when it is well known that they have neither the equipment nor the experience to carry out the job.

I am happy to note that the Government has at long last realised the need to commercialise certain aspects of its Telecommunications Service.

The Government system of accounting with its background of red tape does not make for speed.

The Postal Agencies in the rural areas need increased Government aid and encouragement so that they will all eventually be in a position to transact Savings Bank business, thus promoting thrift among school children and subsistence farmers with small incomes.

The establishment by Government of the Nigerian External Telecommunications Company is a move in the right direction which is bound to foster the spirit of unity not only between Nigeria and other African countries but towards the whole world generally.

Nigeria is lucky to be blessed with abundance of mineral oil. The proposal to build an oil refinery near Port Harcourt appears to be an indication that Nigeria is destined to become one of the most important oil-producing countries of the world, but it is one thing to have oil in one's country and quite another thing to make it benefit the ordinary people of the land. The fate of some of the oil-producing countries of the Middle East should be a lesson to us. In preparing agreements with oil prospecting and processing companies, the Government should always take into confidence such Nigerians in the Ministry of Mines and Power and elsewhere who have had considerable experience with the oil companies especially the Shell B.P. company. Their advice, coupled with that of our legal luminaries should result in our concluding oil agreements not less favourable to us than to the oil companies concerned.

As Nigerian Petroleum Engineers have an important role to play in our bid to become an oil producing nation, we must give them every possible encouragement by way of special service conditions not the least of which is accelerated promotion. We live in a technological and scientific age, so any move by Government to encourage technological education will be strongly backed up by this Senate.

A national plan for university followed shortly by a national plan for technical education seems to indicate a change of heart on the part of the Governments of the Federation. The time has certainly come when our educational programme at all levels in this country should be reviewed so that certain aspects of it may become national in outlook, namely, such things like educational standards and certification and remuneration of teachers.

The Federal Ministry of Health headed by the virile, go-ahead, Minister, Chief the hon. Senator Majekodunmi deserve the eternal gratitude of the people of Lagos for all the progressive measures and plans the Minister has adopted to make Lagos a worthy capital of this great Federation of Nigeria. The old General Hospital which has for long been an eye-sore is now being replaced by a more modern building, while the reminder of our colonial days, the European Hospital now called the Creek Hospital, will soon be replaced by a modern children's hospital. In addition to this, one health centre is to be built in each of

the eight wards into which Lagos is constituted. All this and more are signs of progress and constructive planning by the Minister who knows what is good for the people and how best to supply it. We salute the Minister of Health who has brought to his ministerial functions his accumulated experience as one of the most capable medical men that Nigeria has had the pride and honour to produce.

About the establishment of a Personnel Advisory Service, I have little comment to make. I leave that to better qualified Senators like Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku and other Trade Union leaders, whose advice Government should take into serious consideration so that in the years that lie ahead we may hear less of strikes and labour upheavals which are like an ill wind that blows no one good.

His Excellency the Governor-General struck a happy note when he said that His Government will continue to furnish Nigerian Legal and Judicial Officers to those African countries that request assistance. The Government in appointing these officers should bear in mind that they are not just appointing legal or judicial officers but ambassadors as well, so they cannot be too careful in selecting those to be appointed. In this connection it will not be out of place to put on record the very wise selection the Government has made in the previous appointment of two magistrates who have long since proceeded to Tanganyika, and the Judge appointed for Uganda. The appointees are able men, men of integrity who can be depended upon at any time and at any place to uphold the good name of their country. These ambassadors of goodwill deserve well of Nigeria, and their sacrifice in opting to go abroad at the call of their country must be adequately rewarded by speedy advancement in the Service.

The people of Nigeria are grateful to their Governments for their efforts to increase their various media of mass information, but only such information as will not have pernicious effects on the morals of the people should be encouraged.

Speaking about the Information Service, Mr President, permit me to relate to the House the shock I had listening to the N.B.C. Radio Broadcast on the 7th of February this year. The Radio Doctor in the course of his broadcast talk gave a graphic description of how the

female sex can by the use of common salt solution invariably prevent conception. Thousands of young Nigerian girls must have listened to this talk which can only have the effect of encouraging promiscuous sex relationship. Any media of mass information which tend to have a demoralising effect on the young must be condemned, and the Radio Doctor will be well advised to discontinue using our organ of information for the purpose of propagating and disseminating his diabolical doctrine of contraception which is both un-Christian and un-African. From now on the slogan should be to keep the media of mass information and entertainment clean, and the hon. Minister of Information should enforce the observance of this or face the consequences.

It is heartening to note that legislation will be introduced to establish a National Sports Council which will be charged with the responsibility of organising and administering sports at the national level. This welcome decision has not come a moment too soon. Our national pride and prestige have suffered a great damage of late by our humiliating defeats in football and other sporting events, and anything the Government can do to restore our fallen standard in soccer and athletics generally will receive the wholehearted support not only of patriotic Nigerians but all lovers of sports in this country.

About the Federal Government's scholarship policy I would like to call the attention of the President and Senators to the present dire need for a drastic review. Last year on the Floor of this House I appealed to the Government to give loan scholarship to a certain category of students who otherwise will have no opportunity for university education. At present so much is given to so few that so many go without anything. The time has come when the Government should review the amount paid to these scholarship holders. I know one, at least, who is able to maintain other children in school on his own scholarship award. I can see no justification in a thing like that. If the amount given to one student is reduced money will be available to go round to many more students. Government should hearken to this.

May I at this juncture appeal to our leaders going to the Addis Ababa Conference of Independent African States to go with a resolute determination to bring about the

[SENATOR NZEREM]
much needed solidarity of all African States. Africa torn into world power blocs cannot play any effective role in world affairs. The old adage of "united we stand and divided we fall" has never been as true as it is to-day, and I hope all participating in the Conference will make this adage a theme of the Conference.

I would be doing injustice to my conscience if I ended this speech without reference to the last nation-wide census, the fate of which has now passed into history, or, better still, into the limbo of forgotten past. I associate myself with the encomiums showered on the Prime Minister and the Regional Premiers whose concerted action and statesmanship averted the great threat to the continued unity of Nigeria which is dear to the hearts of us all. It is gratifying that the responsibility for the proper conduct of future census is vested in the Prime Minister and the Regional Premiers. This is as good as it goes, but, with due deference, I fail to see how this can be of much use. I do not see how any of the three Regions can return figures less than the original ones which were said to be inflated. I do not for one moment question the integrity of our Premiers and the Prime Minister, but they are certainly not going to conduct the counting personally, and I do not see how the East is going to return a lower figure, neither do I see how the North or the West can do that.

Speaking of the East where I took active and personal interest in counting as supervising instructor I know there were many people in my district who were left out in the count for one reason or another, but these people are now determined to submit themselves for counting. It is expected, therefore, that in the East, at least, a much higher figure is bound to be returned. I would be rather surprised if the other Regions were different. Who can say then how we are going to have a census figure which can inspire confidence of Nigerians and non-Nigerians alike?

With a view to resolving the problem of our census which seems to defy solution at the moment I make bold to offer a suggestion for the consideration of the Prime Minister and the Regional Premiers, and the suggestion is this. In counting the East, Northerners and Westerners should be employed as supervisors under the direction of the Eastern Premier; in counting the North, Easterners and

Westerners should be employed as supervisors under the direct supervision of the Northern Premier, and in counting the West, Easterners and Northerners should go to the West. Some people may say this is going to cost a lot of money, but £1 million is already a lot of money and yet we threw £1 million into the Atlantic Ocean. If we spend £1½ million to get a census figure that is respectable and acceptable to all the money will not have been spent in vain. I am sure that this humble suggestion of mine will receive due consideration by those who are in position to consider it.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the Governments of the Federation on the further steps they have taken to ensure the creation of the Mid-West State. I also wish to thank all the political parties, the N.C.N.C., the N.P.C. the U.P.P., and the Action Group for agreeing to co-operate to see the Mid-West State created, and I congratulate you, Mr President, a worthy leader of the Mid-West State Movement. May God guard and guide you, and may He crown your efforts with unqualified success.

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

10.30 a.m.

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : I associate myself wholeheartedly with the fine sentiments expressed by Senators to his Excellency the Governor-General for his Speech from the Throne. We all know our Governor-General well enough now that he is a man who can hardly be beaten by any other personalities in Nigeria to-day. He possesses all the fine qualities that make him a really fine gentleman.—

The President : If the Senator could raise his voice a bit for the purpose of the reporter.

Senator Asemota : I do not know who is responsible for this voice this morning. *(Laughter)*. Mr President, I was in your party last night and before I went there my voice was very clear, but now I do not know what has happened. *(Laughter)*.

A Senator : Alcohol !

Senator Asemota : Yes.

Well, I will only like to refer to one or two points raised in His Excellency's Speech.

The Speech we are making now is only to thank His Excellency for what he has said and I will only refer to the part where His Excellency said :

"It will be the Government's endeavour to continue to encourage the expansion of internal and external trade and the promotion of industrial development."

Further on he said :

"Funds will be provided to enable the Federal Loans Board maintain financial assistance to indigenous small scale business enterprises, while the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank, soon to be established, will ensure Nigerian participation in major industrial enterprises in the private sector."

Well, this is a welcome address indeed which the small businessmen in this country will very much thank his Excellency for. As you know, most of the small businessmen in this country to-day are being ousted from business by the big enterprises. Because of the very small funds at their disposal, they are unable to meet the competition ; they are unable to do anything in any field that will invite the people's elaborate attention to see what they are doing as a result of which they are beaten away from the business owing to lack of funds. This is a welcome note indeed that the Government is considering it. I do hope that the Government will implement this because most of these fine speeches are all seen on paper. We want to see their actual implementation, and I do hope that in no distant time the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank will be made available to the indigenous sons of Nigeria. The expatriate banks, as you know, are not all that co-operative to Nigerian businessmen. They go to them for loan ; they go to them for assistance ; they get very small one that will not be able to carry them through, but any expatriate businessman can get any amount of money. If we get our industrial bank to give assistance to the small businessmen in this country, I think it will certainly improve the status of this country.

I will also like to refer to the appointment of buying agents for marketing board produce. I saw on a list that there are so many expatriates. I think the time has come when African businessmen are to be encouraged and given an opportunity to be Government buying agents. Priority and preference should not be given to expatriates in the appointment of buying agents.

I will also like to refer to the merchandise and passenger transport business in this country which is still in the hands of expatriates. Here again, I think the time has come when the Government should assist local businessmen. There are so many people in this country who are capable of doing the business which the expatriates are doing, but the unfortunate thing is that they are not encouraged, and they have got no means of carrying it out. I do hope that the Government will look into that and see that indigenous natives in this country help.

Another point I will like to raise is the vehicle dealers in this country. Well, you know yourself that year in and year out we have many vehicles coming into this country, so many of them, and they are all in the hands of expatriates. It is not an easy thing for men who are not working for the Government and who are not in Parliament to be able to buy cars conveniently and pay at reasonable terms of hire purchase. If the Government will step in to see that Africans take part in the business—be partners in the business—and ask the firms to release shares for people to buy, I think that will help us a great deal, because they make a heavy amount of profit out of that business. Where do they take the money to ? If they plough the money back into the country it will be a different thing, but they do not. You could imagine a colossal sum of money in form of profits that are made from sale of vehicles. They represent all the motor producers in the world. All over this country. You have all sorts of vehicles, but they are in the hands of expatriates. Therefore, I think that the Government should do something to see that Africans become partners in the business to enable them enjoy the fruits which are produced in their own country.

The next thing in the Governor-General's Speech that I will like to speak on is about telephone. We heard time without number that something is being done to improve the telephone system in the country. I think I have heard it three times now. I have read it in the Governor-General's Speech three times but the position to me does not seem to improve. It has not improved at all. If you pick up your handset now and say you want trunk, it takes you some five, six or seven minutes to get somebody to answer. Only to get trunk, before you even book the call !

[SENATOR ASEMOTA]

When you book the call, they will tell you that the delay is indefinite. Well, I do not quite understand why His Excellency put down here that improvement will be made in telephone. Actually we do not see it. This is the third time now that I have read it in the Governor-General's Speech, but I do not actually see it implemented. I do hope that the Minister responsible for that will kindly buckle up and see that the inconvenience we are suffering now is at least reduced to the barest minimum.

As I said, this is not the time to make an elaborate speech, but I will like to say this that I congratulate the Lagos Town Council for the statue of the God of Iron which I saw at the Marina.

Several Senators : It is the E. C. N.'s, not the Lagos Town Council.

Senator Asemota : Is it? Well that is a challenge to the Lagos Town Council. But the thing is that the time has come when an arrangement should be made to get the statues of Lord Lugard, a man like Sir Sapara Williams, a man like Sir Akitoye Ajasa, a man like the late Herbert Macauley, the first Oba of Lagos and our present Governor-General. We want to see their statues. It is time the Lagos Town Council erect these statues. These are the men really that matter. We want our children to see them and to read about them. We want to see their statues. The late Lugard was the first Governor-General who amalgamated both North and South. He was a man that should not be forgotten. Lord Lugard was a man that should always be remembered. Then you come to Sir Sapara Williams, one of the most eminent people who lived in this country before the present day generation. They were men who were powerful, men of experience and men who held very important posts. We do not want to forget them. We want their statues so that our children can see and know something about them. I hope the Lagos Town Council will take that into consideration.

I am in sympathy with the Member for Lagos in the fears he expressed yesterday about the Bar Beach. I quite agree with him that the Bar Beach is extending rapidly. But whose fault is it? I think the fault lies in the people of Lagos. I think that anybody that neglects his ancestors, or a son that neglects his father and does not pay regard to where he

comes from, is really to suffer. I think that the best solution is that the Oba of Lagos who, I am very happy, is here, should try and see if he can persuade the people of Lagos to retrace their steps back to their ancestors. I can assure him that the Oba of Benin will send Chief Esogbon to the Bight of Benin to perform some ceremonies and the ocean will continue to reside in its place.

That is all I have to say for the time being.

9.42 a.m.

Senator P. A. Ogundipe : I wish to make this small contribution to the Motion of Thanks to the Governor-General, the Rt. Hon. Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, for the Speech from the Throne addressed to both Houses of Parliament at the opening of this Budget Session. The Speech has come from a man who has spent the best part of his life in fighting for the independence of Africa; a man who has been in the forefront of the struggle for the liberation of Nigeria during the past 30 years. It has come from a man who has, through the press, through lectures, through several campaigns and through his innumerable literature as well as through all possible avenues of education, piloted his country men through the labyrinth of colonial mentality into this safe heaven of political and intellectual emancipation. Thanks to God of Africa for making it possible for the Rt. Hon. Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe to witness the emancipation of Africa for which he has so bravely fought. Also, thanks to God because he has not only witnessed this emancipation from the political and economic servitude of the colonial power, but he also has the good luck of being the first President of this Senate, the highest Legislature of the country, and, again, he is the first indigenous Governor-General of the Federation of Nigeria. The whole country is looking forward to the time when this great son of Africa will become the first President of the Republic of Nigeria.

Many Senators have dissected several heads of the Speech from the Throne, particularly those dealing with the Development Programme which the Federal Government envisages for the year. It is just enough for me, therefore, to spotlight two or three points.

The first point that comes to my mind is the unity of Africa. It is significant and I think not without a purpose that the Governor-General's Address began with the Federal

Government's policy in the matter of the unity of Africa. By his reference to the Charter of the Inter-African and Malagasy Organisation which is to be ratified soon, one can see how the question of the unity of Africa weighs heavily in the mind of the Federal Government of Nigeria.

The contribution that the Nigerian leaders in the Federal Government have made and are still making to the unity of the great continent of Africa is worthy of the great name and population of Nigeria. But we must not neglect the importance of unity first at home. It is said that charity begins at home. In this country charity should begin at home too. Our charity should not begin and end outside the home. We should struggle first of all to win and maintain real unity in the country so that the East, the West and the North can come closer together. People from the Eastern Region should be freely employed in the civil service of the Western Region without discrimination, and the people from the Western or the Eastern Regions should be given appointments in the Northern civil service and *vice versa*. It is ability and qualification alone that should be the determining factor and not family connection or tribal affinity.

Greater and lasting unity should be encouraged by the creation of more states. There can be no real happiness among us when people, tribes or clans quite different from one another in cultural or social background as well as economic development, who want to enjoy their own self-determination, are being tied to other groups who by sheer force of number will for eternity be lord over them. There will be no unity where a giant drives along with a dwarf who cannot keep pace with him. There will be unity if everyone is given his own share and his own right. Let us have more states. They will help us. They will further tighten the bond of unity between us.

Thanks to the West Regional House of Assembly which set the ball rolling by first of all bringing up the Motion on the creation of the Mid-West State. By now everything that can be done has been done and by God's grace the Mid-West State will be created, and by God's grace also more states will follow. May the Mid-West State open the way to the creation of more states in this country.

A Senator : Amen !

Senator Ogundipe : Another point which caught my eye in the Governor-General's Address is the point which dealt with the internal security of the country. The Address laid emphasis, and a stringent one too, on the internal security measures as a major concern of the Federal Government. This is a very important function of the Government for which due praise should be given to the Government. No foreign investor will like to invest his capital in a country which is internally insecure. Not even the indigenous people of a country will like to work and sweat to the utmost if they are not certain that they will enjoy the fruits of what they will labour for. I think this explains the reason why in the days of our forefathers, in the days of inter-tribal wars, people did not amass wealth or build up capital. A cattle farmer or a food growing farmer who is not sure whether he will harvest the crop he has planted will not labour for more than what he can just live upon from day to day. In those days anybody would expect at any time that the neighbouring tribe would march upon him, on his farm, and carry away his cattle and his food, and burn the rest—because there was no internal security. As a result, there was no capital development and no growth and no prosperity. Therefore, it goes without saying that the Federal Government should be greatly applauded for the kind of stress made on maintaining internal security in this dear country of ours.

But, I would sound a note of warning, that our security police should not make themselves a menace to the people they are expected to protect, and whose security they are expected to maintain. Unfortunately here in this country, unlike other countries, the police have generally been known for their harsh treatment of people, for their intimidation and torture. The police should be told not to use their privileged position as a means of tormenting people or getting innocent people into trouble.

I noticed from the Speech from the Throne that something was mentioned about the welfare of the Forces. It is very significant that the Speech has given assurance that better houses and better living conditions generally should and would be provided for our Forces. This is very important and may have a psychological effect on their performances.

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When you give hard assignments to somebody without a corresponding remuneration and other facilities, especially to the people we call our police, you should not be surprised if they sometimes try to be brutal and inhuman in their treatment to people. I have some experience. Just this session, after my arrival I saw a bit of the housing conditions of the police. A nephew of mine is in the police force, and lives in the quarters at Surulere. I went to see him as soon as I arrived, to see how he was faring, but I found that he was not there. He had been given two months' leave and I was told that he had to pack bag and baggage from his quarters because he must leave the place. I was also told that he had to look for a house willy-nilly in the town. You can understand what the position is. Their housing arrangements are so bad, their quarters are so congested that if a police constable has one or two months' leave, he has to vacate his quarters, pack his tables, chairs and every article of furniture he has, and nobody knows where he is to go. Why should a person who is doing a job and has two months' leave be asked to pack from his lodging? What a hardship is this to a man with two wives and four or five children, without a relation in Lagos! Where is he expected to keep these people? Is he to carry all the furniture to his hometown in Makurdi, or Okitipupa, or Enugu? That is not right, and that is why this man from whom we expect so much at any time should be given everything possible by way of amenities and comfort.

I now go to the part of the Speech which deals with the coal industry, the dieselisation of the railway, the use of oil instead of coal by the Electricity Corporation of Nigeria, and the effect that this has on the coal industry—the deterioration of the coal industry. This article which, with your permission, Mr President, I wish to read, has been sent to every member of this House by the Public Relations Officer, Nigerian Coal Corporation, Enugu. It is very educative and very informative and it should be the concern of us all to urge the Government to do all it could to see that the coal industry does not die out or suffer further reverses. In the first place, the coal industry had actually beaten any industry we had in this country before the introduction of diesel and before the use of oil. Mr Onuora Nwanya wrote:

"Coal has been the mainstay of industrialisation in Nigeria. Since 1916 when the first ounce of coal was mined in Enugu coal-fields, coal has pioneered: the Railways, Electricity, Shipping, Cement Industry and various other enterprises that use coal to power their industries".

If for that reason alone, and even for the reason of prestige, this coal industry is extended in our country, and for the part it has played in the country's development, the Government should do everything possible to see that the industry does not suffer greater reverses than it has suffered in the past ten years—since the time of the historic shooting at Enugu. Although the industry is fast deteriorating, Mr Nwanya said it still at present employs 5,502 people. Now if the industry should die out it means that 4,502 people would have to leave their homes and find employment in other quarters. Just imagine how much inconvenience and how much starvation it will bring to 4,502 people with their families leaving their environments, leaving their own part of the country to look for jobs elsewhere. We surely know that many of them may not be able to find suitable jobs and many of them may have to face unemployment the effect of which we are already feeling. For this reason, we should implore the Government to make use, according to the suggestion which Mr Nwanya has very carefully given here, that the Government should try to make use of coal and its by-products in other ways. It is easy to see from what he calls "the Original Sketch on Coal By-products by the National Coal Board in London" that there are so many by-products of coal.

Coal can be further used if not for the railway and electricity as we have heard, as fertilizers, it could be used, after undergoing certain chemical processes, for soap making, for galvanising, for ammonia, for dye, for paints, and so on and so forth. So instead of neglecting coal and awaiting all the starvation which will fall upon those that are engaged in the coal industry it should be the duty of our Government to consider seriously how to make one hundred *per cent* use of coal through its by-products.

This further underlines the needs for siting the proposed iron industry in that area where coal so abundantly exists.

This reminds me of the Labour Agreement Negotiation which at present is going on between Nigeria and Spain under our able Minister of Labour. On the Floor of this House as well as on the Floor of the lower House, people have spoken harsh words and expressed violent sentiments about the conditions of our men in the Spanish territory of Fernando Po. It is a matter for joy to hear that after sometime our complaints and our cries that something should be done to help these our people who are suffering a lot of disability and disadvantages in the Spanish territory are now being considered. There is no doubt from what one could read and from the nature of our Minister of Labour that he will do his best to achieve a very good bargain with the Spanish authorities so that our people in Fernando Po shall work under very good conditions and receive good remuneration for their work. This is a matter for which we should be very grateful to the Government for the steps being taken, and ask the Government to press on.

It is gratifying to note that the Federal Government desire to work more hand in hand with the Regional Governments in the development of technical education, and also to note that the Technical Institute Yaba will be transformed into the National Technical College. This is quite the good time and I hope it receives the approbation of us all. I also think it should be more than that. I think we should be looking forward to the time when there should be National Technical Colleges for each of the three Regions because it is on technical education, the education that trains us more to make use of our hands than the skills acquired through pen pushing, that the fortunes and future of our country depend.

We are thinking of more industrialisation, we are thinking of mechanisation of agriculture. All these require more of technical and practical education. For this reason, I would urge the Government not only to convert the Technical Institute at Yaba to the National Technical College, but to think of instituting or establishing National Technical Colleges in each Region.

The President : The Senator has five more minutes.

Senator Ogunjipe : I am quite happy that I have five minutes more because I have one

more important point, and I would have regretted if I had not been able to make it.

The Federal Judiciary should be congratulated for the appointment of Dr Udo Udoma, Judge of the Lagos High Court as the first African Chief Justice to Uganda after independence. It is a matter for pride for Nigeria because Nigeria is able to produce such a personality as Dr Udoma. The Uganda Government too should be praised for their faith in Nigeria. In taking this measure the Uganda nation is contributing to the unity of African nations.

The Nigerian Judiciary should be congratulated for their high sense of duty and fine standard of justice which has been reflected in other parts of Africa. Mr Justice Udoma is to be congratulated personally for all those attributes; efficiency, ability and justice, which must have put him up for this high post. He should be further reminded that he owes it as a duty to his great country, Nigeria, and to his greater country, Africa, to maintain those standards of justice, high sense of duty and impeachable conduct which can only be the highest stock-in-trade of independent Africa, and may God of Africa grant him the wisdom of Solomon in the discharge of the arduous tasks which now devolve on his shoulders.

With these remarks I beg to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor-General.

10.12 a.m.

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale, Madawakin Bida : Mr President, Sir, I rise to associate myself with the Senators who have spoken before me, but I have few felicitations and very few additions.

I have carefully gone through the Speech from the Throne and as I have always said signs of improvement in our country depend entirely on the country's sons, all the sons the country has produced. From the Speech one can see that our country, Nigeria, has got a place, a high place, in the world. This is shown by the way it conducts its affairs, the way it leads other African countries and by the way it produced prominent people, such as our able Governor-General, our God-fearing Prime Minister and, of course, the polite President of the Senate (*Applause*).

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These people are an embodiment of the progress of this country, and whenever they appear in person or in their deliberations they outweigh their colleagues from other countries. This is shown in many ways, in many committees, in many assemblies, and even when they make statements they have no equal. This Speech from the Throne is commendable and just shows to the whole world how this country is fast progressing.

In the Speech the Fire Services Bill was mentioned and I am glad to note that fire services will be improved, because I noticed at one time last year on the Marina there was a conflagration. The incident happened at the moment I reached the place: everybody was just looking, peeping here and there and running here and there. No Fire Brigade men were seen for over half an hour to render any assistance. It was indeed appalling! The Fire Brigade established for immediate action when fire breaks out, but unfortunately the fire in question was brought under control when it was evidently too late. The result was that the whole block of buildings were burnt down. It was a pity. So if the provision for improving the fire services is effected I think this sort of thing will be brought to a minimum and quicker assistance will be available.

On Cinematograph I would say that up to the moment there has been no improvement. What are the benefits of the films being sent from other countries to us? They are of no use. They are not of any educational value, not for the moral improvement of our people, but for the luxury of very few people. They just teach people how to plan civil war, and such things. The only things in which we shall be interested are the things produced in this country: not things coming from abroad. I have been to so many centres in this capital but so far, even in this House I have gone round from the right to the left, I have never seen any picture or photograph produced in this country. What will the coming generation say? And this is the first Senate in the country, built for the whole country.

The Rt. hon. the Governor-General of the Federation was the first President of the Senate. Where is his picture? The hon. Chief Dennis Osadebay succeeded him.

Where is his picture? The photographs of all the Senators are nowhere to be seen. Not a single one. What are we going to show to the coming generation? They will not be able to know the Senators from the Western Region, Eastern Region, Northern Region and the Federal Territory of Lagos. But in Nigeria we see the photographs of Mr Macmillan, President Kennedy and others. Why should our Senators be treated like this? This is a very important point and I hope the Federal Minister of Information will look into this. This is his duty. I think this will be conveyed to him by my good friend, the Federal Minister of Health, that Senators are crying for this.

The Speech from the Throne about Immigration is very interesting. I commend the Federal Government for its effort to bring back home destitute pilgrims. We are talking about the census and thousands of people are over there with no hope of coming back home. I am glad that pilgrims are being discouraged from going to Mecca by road because they have to deposit substantial sums of money which will be used to transport them back home in case they get stranded. Many of the pilgrims work there in order to eat and clothe themselves and no more. I think the Government will continue to bring these destitute pilgrims back home every year until no one is left behind.

I shall now talk about our Telegraph System which is contained in the Speech. For the last two years I have seen no difference. We attained independence two years ago and yet there is no improvement in our Telegraph System. If you send a telegram to your friend asking him to help you get accommodation because you are arriving on such and such a date, you will be there before the telegram gets to his hand. That money is wasted. Perhaps the new system will put an end to our cries about the operators. I would like to see rapid improvement in our Telegraph System.

I come now to coal. I think that our Railway should continue to use coal instead of diesel oil. If the Government do not want to use coal for our Railway they should find alternative uses for it. We have a large deposit of coal in Nigeria and it will be useless

if there are no alternative uses for it. Government should carry out research into other uses of coal. We should not be using coal for cooking alone.

I am going to talk about Health. I quite agree that the man at the head, the Federal Minister of Health, is a bold man. His services are commendable and we rely on him in all he does. But this Lagos, capital of Nigeria, should be more cared for. This is the town to which every individual, every foreigner, likes to come and see things for himself. Whatever people see in Lagos that is the impression they form about the country. (*Hear, hear*).

I think that improved health system should be brought to Lagos. If you go to Lagos, either in the afternoon or evening, just leave your car somewhere and go inside, you will hardly be able to walk one hundred yards before you run back to your car. Why? The reason is that every place is filthy. You will doubt whether people are living there. Everywhere is dirty. Lagos being the capital of Nigeria should not be left uncared for. This thing should be looked into.

When I first came to Lagos for a meeting of the Committee of Inland Revenue Appeal (Income Tax) I lodged inside Lagos. During the evenings I had to go out. I had to go out because the place was dirty. I had to go somewhere to get fresh air. I could not sit there in the evening. I could not even eat my food there. I think I should bring this matter to the notice of the Federal Minister of Health. Senator Oba Adeniji Adele II of Lagos will bear me out that Lagos needs proper medical facilities.

Senator Oba Adeniji Adele II: I quite agree. I think the hon. Minister of Health will of course see to this and evolve plans that will make the people of Lagos to be able to sit in their homes and admire their own surroundings after returning from work instead of looking for better surroundings outside their homes.

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale: In the Speech from the Throne, the Governor-General said "*My Government will continue to furnish Nigerian legal and judicial officers to those African countries that request our assistance*". It will be a very good idea if we are able to send our people to other countries

to assist them, but as one Senator said sometime ago, we must not send just any sort of people to other countries. That is very important. Very careful selection must be made of those people who will be sent outside. Those to be sent out must not only be knowledgeable but must possess good manners. We want people who will represent us creditably, people who know themselves and what they are doing. These are the people we want.

I do not want to dwell on Television. I think other Senators have said all there is to be said about that.

There is no doubt that the Government has been spending a large amount of money on research every year. When last I spoke, I urged that the Government should conduct research into rice plantation, which is in my town. Varieties of rice number more than fifty and the Government should endeavour to see which of these varieties is the sweetest and which will yield the best at any given time. Guinea corn and millet are also staple foods in some parts of this country, but no effort has been made at all to improve them. For instance, in some parts of the Far North, the duration of the rainy season is only four months. As a result, guinea corn and millet cannot be planted outside these four months, but in other neighbouring areas where the duration of the rainy season is about eight months, it is possible to plant and harvest guinea corn and millet at least twice a year. I am, therefore, urging the Government again to conduct proper research into these things so that the people in the rural areas, particularly in those areas where the duration of the rainy season is not more than four months, may be able to plant at least two times a year. This will no doubt minimise the shortage of food. If possible, research should also be conducted into the possibility of planting quarterly.

In the Governor-General's Speech, which no doubt has been very well prepared, no mention is made of our achievement during the first year of our Six-Year Development Programme. I think the point is worthy of reference because last year we announced to the whole world the beginning of our Six-Year Development. Pamphlets were issued and distributed to people all over the world and, naturally, all these people must be waiting to hear how far we have progressed within

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the past twelve months. But no such reference is contained in the Speech. As a matter of fact, we have achieved something.

Another important point concerns the majority of the people of this country who are workers. Again no reference has been made to them in the Speech. I think the workers represented by the trade unions and other allied unions should not have been left out entirely. This class of people should not be made to feel that they have been neglected. If something had been said in the Speech about trade unions, I think it would give the workers the impression that they have not been forgotten and that the Government is actively thinking about them.

A Senator also talked about the arrangement or decision reached at the meeting held on the census question by the Prime Minister and the Regional Premiers.—

Senator Abdul Salami Yusifu : The point now being pursued by Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale is not within the Speech from the Throne.

The President : In the debate on the Speech from the Throne a Senator has the privilege to talk about the things in it and things not in it.

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale : A Senator made a suggestion that in the next census, if one will be held at all, people from the North should count people in the East, people from the East should count people in the West, and people from the West should count people in the North, What would that mean to us? I think that is useless !

A Senator : How ?

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale : Of course, it is useless. Whom do we trust? We trust nobody. We never trust ourselves. That is what it means. If we say something is wrong, there must be something inside which is wrong and we must find where that wrong is and put it right. When those honourable people met they must have come to some conclusions which would satisfy them. If they are satisfied, we are satisfied. Whatever decision they come to is what we should come to if we rely on them. If we rely on them, the only thing for us is to agree with whatever conclusions they come to. It is wrong for us to mix things up. They themselves must know that there was something

wrong and must have amended the wrong which might create anything to undermine the progress of this country.

I personally do not know anything about the Eastern Region at all. I do not know a single village there. Supposing I am made a counting officer there, it then means that I have to get my information from the people who are there.

A Senator : Such a person will be piloted.

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale : By who ?

A Senator : By the Easterners.

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale : Then the Easterners can do the work straight away, otherwise I will just be dragged around the place by somebody who may be asked to pilot me.

The President : Senator Alhaji Bale has only two more minutes.

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale : Thank you very much, indeed. Well, in order that the House will not get tired of me, I beg to support the Motion.

10.45 a.m.

Senator A. E. Ukattah : I have the greatest pleasure in taking part in this annual Parliamentary event of expressing gratitude to His Excellency the Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Federation of Nigeria for his Speech from the Throne.

His Excellency as an ordinary citizen is a puzzle to me. He is a puzzle to me because he is a figure whose full and accurate description can provide a two-day job to the best describer of character in the world. Is it enough merely to call him a father of African nationalism? Is it enough to describe him merely as the standard bearer of the nation? Perhaps one of the most amiable and enviable qualities in His Excellency is the quality of adaptability. Without this gift of being able to adapt himself to changing conditions, it could be well nigh impossible for him to occupy the lofty office he now holds.

It was only a few years ago that this great hero was at the head of political campaign teams touring the whole Federation, and now suddenly things have changed for him to have abandoned the campaign teams and left the soap-box, and to have said good-bye to active

partisan politics without it being as difficult as stopping a cat from mousing. He did it because all along he had been a most ardent and unbending champion of this country's interests. And why did he do this? Why did he suddenly change to be the father of the nation? He did it only in the interest of oneness of the country. Well, that must be a great sacrifice to an active politician.

Yet there were other sacrifices made earlier on, particularly during his youthful days. Then neither threats of banishment and imprisonment nor the brandishing of the sword of the blood-thirsty imperialists could daunt him. He maintained, and rightly too, that man stripped of his dignity and sentenced to perpetual servitude had been reduced to a level no more attractive than that of the beast. The theme of his sermon was "Freedom for the people".

I am personally happy that this worthy hero of the country has lived to see that tender sapling which he, along with many other stalwarts now lying by the wayside, had planted has now taken on root and grown into a tree—the tree of liberty. It is even a greater joy that that great tree of liberty was not in any way watered by the blood of any tyrant.

This country owes a debt of gratitude to His Excellency for all his sacrifices and achievements. I do not think that full payment of that debt of gratitude can be made by the present generation. We can only pay a part of it and leave the rest to posterity, who certainly must be inspired and geared perhaps into greater achievements by the footprints which they themselves will find on their own sands of time.

The Rt. hon. Dr Azikiwe is a being made of very stern stuff and his capability for service is unequalled. The country must bear this in mind alongside certain constitutional changes being contemplated. I know he will be prepared to continue to serve the people. Having watched him for some time now, I know that he is a man who believes that it is better to wear out than to rust out. He will be prepared to continue to serve the people only if the people themselves are prepared to accept him, if the people continue to regard him as a special gift to the country. If they are prepared to give him a position that befits a man of his calibre, if he is considered and the consideration is based not on sectional interests, not on sentiments, but purely on merit.

May I touch on the substance of his Speech. The Speech itself is quite a grand one, very explicit, and it is characteristic of the erudite personality of His Excellency. It is remarkable for the emphasis placed on first things first. For a wise man to run his family well, he must first of all find out the needs of his family. Then he thinks out how to meet those needs. Now going into the Speech—this very thought provoking speech—I find that the Federal Government has followed this pattern very closely by drawing up a list of problems and proposals meant to ensure that the hard-working, suffering peasant population of this country will benefit. The Senate is now being asked to examine these problems and proposals very critically and, of course, briefly—briefly because it is not possible, and it is even not desirable within the time at our disposal, to comment exhaustively on every point covered by this Speech.

Touching on the most salient points, my first observation goes to the section that condemns the expensive duplication of efforts. With your permission, Mr President, may I read that relevant section in order to make my point clearer :

"The possibility of co-ordinating scholarship activities will be examined in concert with the Regional Governments in order to ensure successful "investment in talent" for the country's manpower needs and to avoid expensive duplication of efforts."

That is very laudable. But I should say that it is not only in co-ordinating scholarship activities that the Government should have thought of the harm that has been done by expensive duplication of efforts. With the gigantic Six-Year Development Plan now staring the whole nation in the face, one would have expected that the Federal Government as the father of all the Governments would have initiated a move whereby the expensive duplication already done will have been avoided.

Well, I have in mind the fact that in the United Kingdom, for instance, you have Nigeria Office headed by a High Commissioner; then you have a large staff; and then in addition the Western Government established its own office headed by an Agent-General and his staff; then you have that of the Northern Government headed by an Agent-General, with his staff; then you have

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that of the East with an Agent-General and his staff. If that is not duplication, I yet have to know then the meaning of duplication. Then you have the various sets of economic missions. Then coming back home you have four broadcasting houses, four different television services. These are all unnecessary and expensive duplication. Tell me why one Nigeria Office properly enlarged and well staffed cannot serve all the Governments of the Federation. Tell me why one economic mission fully representative of all the Governments of the Regions with a programme comprehensive enough to cover the needs of these other Governments would not be enough. Tell me why one national broadcasting house well staffed and provided with up-to-date equipment will not serve the interest of the whole nation. Why all the duplication?

Therefore, while thanking the Federal Government for thinking of the avoidance of expensive duplication, I would suggest that the move should be initiated by the Federal Government to ensure that these others already allowed to happen should be rectified as soon as possible. The money that goes into the duplication would very well be used for further needs within the country.

I come now to Nigeria's security. I have always believed that any sovereign nation which cannot depend on its own people for its security is like 'a fly to wanton boys,' to use the words of Shakespeare. Most of the amenities provided by the Government are limited to perhaps only large cities. But what can be given to everybody in every nook and corner of this country which can be regarded as the highest that the Government can give is security. Security is absolutely necessary to the noble in his castle; to the wealthy in his mansion, and to the poor and the lowly in his cottage. There is nothing as absolutely necessary as security and anything that the Government is doing to ensure that security is indeed most laudable. It is, therefore, very gratifying to see the measures designed to ensure this security. These are the increase in police strength, the establishment of an ordnance factory, and the creation of Nigeria's own air service. With all these properly taken care of the country will have been provided with the land, air and sea forces necessary to maintain both internal and external security to its maximum. The Government is indeed to be congratulated on these.

I have a word on increasing the strength of the Police Force. I hope that the overall increase in the strength of the Police Force will be reflected in the strength of the police we have in every section, in every station, of the Federation. Let not the increase in the strength of the Police Force be meant for any particular place only. It must be done in the interest of the whole nation.

Turning to the creation of the Air Force, I want to give advice to the Government, that is, in recruiting men into the Air Force the Government must be very careful. Recruitment must be based solely on suitability and aptitude. If the people are not suitably qualified they will be the wrong people to be recruited. If they are suitably qualified and there is an absence of aptitude they will be the wrong people to be there too. Therefore, we must have these twin prime factors—suitability and aptitude. I say this because the troubles in the country—great indigence and penury—drive people to seek for appointment in those fields where they have not an ounce of aptitude. In recruiting men into the Air Force, therefore, care must be taken that men are not recruited into that Force who merely want to escape unemployment.

The next point I would like to touch on is the question of technical education. The importance of technical education cannot be over-emphasized. It is only technical education that can give us the trained, skilled workers that we required in industries. These trained and skilled workers fall into three main categories. We have the technologist, we have the technician, and we have the craftsman. These three categories of men can only be provided for the industries of this nation through technical education. It is, therefore, very laudable that the Federal Government is thinking of planning with the Regional Governments so that the Yaba Technical Institute can be converted into a National Technical College.

But I would not consider that enough. Even where the Regional Governments have come to co-operate and the Yaba Technical Institute is changed into a national technical college the Federal Government should go further to think of providing inter-Regional technical colleges as it is now doing in providing inter-Regional secondary grammar schools.

Inter-Regional technical colleges are as important as, if not more important than, the inter-Regional grammar schools. If the Government is not prepared to establish these inter-Regional technical colleges I would suggest that where a technical college is already existing in any of the Regions the Federal Government should try to subsidise it so that it can be enlarged to have a national outlook. It can then train the people that we require.

If we are talking seriously about industrialisation the people we require in our industries should be given an opportunity for training. After all it is these men who will operate and maintain the machinery necessary in industries. And it is these men who will see about the increase or decrease of productivity in industrial areas.

I think really that I have to touch on some minor points. I think they are minor but some people may not regard them as such. For instance, there is the question of Air Hostesses. There was a controversy some time ago in some of the newspapers about somebody condemning the Air Hostesses, regarding them as ugly. Tell me why beauty should be the qualification for becoming an Air Hostess. If a young woman is suitably qualified and has the aptitude for that work, tell me why she should be thrown out because she is not good-looking. Is she the maker of herself? A girl coming forward with the aptitude, with the requisite qualification, is rejected because she is not beautiful!

The President : I understand that an Air Hostess has to attract passengers.

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku : Yes, that is true.

Senator Ukattah : Yes, I know that Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku will be interested in this. Well, I agree with you, Mr President. She has got to be very attractive. But it does not mean that that should be the only qualification.

Several Senators : What else?

Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku : It is the major qualification.

Senator Ukattah : In my opinion it should not be the major qualification. If one is serious about travelling to any place one can travel to that place even if one sees the ugliest person in the world. I condemn that idea and I think that there must be a change of

heart. I am not averse to looking at beautiful girls. But I can go anywhere I want even if ugly girls are here and there and I see them all along the way. I can go. I am not bound to look at or to talk to them. Tell me why beauty should be the most important of all the criteria. I denounce that.

A Senator : The Senator is expressing his own opinion.

Senator Ukattah : Yes, that is my own opinion and the opinion of a Senator cannot be treated with levity.

The President : Provided all the Senators agree with you.

Senator Ukattah : I do not know why they should be so seriously bent on having beautiful girls.

The next point is one already mentioned by many Senators, but I think it would not be out of place to emphasize that. It is the question of the recent announcement of the appointment of Mr Justice Udoma. I think that is a big honour to the whole country, not only to the judiciary, and it goes to show the regard and respect that the Nigerian Judiciary commands. If the Uganda Government could have so much regard and respect for the Nigerian Judiciary, a country with which we have not for long been associating, is it not very annoying and disappointing that the British Government should not have such respect and regard for our Judiciary? There is no respect, no regard, by the British Government for the Nigerian Judiciary, that is why we had the kind of insulting statement we got from Mr Macmillan of England. It is very annoying. Somebody who is supposed to have taken part in drawing up the Constitution of this country is asking the Government of this country to give an undertaking that capital punishment will not be involved in the offence alleged to have been committed by the man we are asking them to extradite to Nigeria. Has Mr Macmillan not got a copy of our Constitution? Why should he come to ask us whether capital punishment would be the penalty for the offence?

The President : May I point out to the Senator that what the Senator is saying is in the Criminal Code and not in the Constitution.

Senator Ukattah : Thank you Mr President. Even then, even if it is in the Criminal Code, Mr Macmillan is supposed to know and if he

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does not know, has he not been told that by our High Commissioner in London? Why should he ask the second question? I feel this question is an insult on the sovereignty of our nation, and the only way to show that we are annoyed is to ask him within a week to apologise to the Government of this country. And if he does not, I suggest that we break off all ties, all diplomatic relations with his country. We can live, we can survive without them. In fact we have survived already.

That statement made by Mr Macmillan is a double-edged sword. He does not know that. On the one hand, it has revealed that the British Government has not that friendly and cordial feeling it has always been regarded to have towards Nigeria, and on the other hand, it shows that Mr Brooke, who is junior in the Cabinet, is really superior in intelligence, because he handled that matter and knew it was a delicate issue and he handled it. He delayed for a long time but in the end he came out with a statement which if not satisfactory was not annoying. He is superior indeed. And this is what I want to put on record. I am disappointed that such a man heading one of the oldest Governments in the world should make such a very damaging and derogatory statement, a statement far below his intelligence.

I do not go into details, but I think we have really made it quite clear that we feel insulted by Mr Macmillan's remark.

The other point on which I do not intend to speak at length is that made by a Lagos Chief, Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku, when he talked about the pumping of one million cubic yards of sand into the Bar Beach. He said it is insufficient, and went on to say he wanted us to do something else, and suggested what should be done. I suggest that we give him the mandate to go and carry out the necessary rituals in order to propitiate the fury of the raging rulers of Bar Beach, and whatever is the outcome, we will be very grateful to him.

I must say I am very grateful to have been given this opportunity of contributing to the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor-General, for his Speech from the Throne.

11.15 a.m.

Senator H. A. Abaagu : Enough praise has already been showered on His Excellency the Governor-General and I need not say more, I only have to say that I concur. I now propose to go straight to make my points. The first is that which the one of the previous speakers has already touched, and that is the duplication of our missions abroad. It is not all economical if we begin to duplicate our missions in certain individual countries. I have noticed that in the U.S.A. alone we have an Embassy in Washington, and a Consul-General in New York, and then of course there is the Permanent Mission in New York. This is important because the U.N.O. happens to be a different organisation. But why should there be a Consul-General in New York when we have an Embassy in Washington? If we must have a Consul-General in New York, why should we have six Consuls in that Consulate? There are as many as six Consuls. Why, I would suggest that we have a Consulate in New York and that Consulate should be merged with the Permanent Mission.

The President : May I inform the Senator that when I was in San Francisco Nigerian students from the West Coast of America wanted a Consul-General in San Francisco. They said New York was too far. That, I hope, will guide the Senator in his debate.

Senator Abaagu : Thank you. I am not saying it is entirely out of place, but I am thinking in terms of the economic position in which Nigeria finds itself at present. Again I see no reason why in a small country like the Republic of the Cameroun we should have an Embassy in Yaunde and a Consulate in Buea. What about the United Kingdom? Already the Senator has mentioned the duplicity of missions there, a small place like Liverpool for example. There are so many other places, other countries like that, where we have duplication of missions. I think the Government should be a bit wiser and try to distribute these missions to certain places where we have no missions at all. By allocating Missions to those countries, we are publicising Nigeria abroad.

The other point is the expansion of the Police Force. It is gratifying to note that the Government is aware of the need for the security of the country to be strengthened. The security arm of the Police Force has been doing a very wonderful job. But I would

suggest that this arm of the Police Force be constituted into a separate institution. That is, it should be a department of its own, having somebody at the head, thereby creating more chances of promotion for our men. In fact they always fish out news for the CID and the CID goes into investigation. Why should they go about fishing out information for the CID? I would suggest that this department be made a separate department from the Police Force so that they may be encouraged.

My third point deals with prisoners. I am grateful to the Government for thinking on this very vexed question. We have been getting complaints that persons, especially those awaiting trial, have not been fairly treated. Why should they treat persons awaiting trial as prisoners? Any one of us can at any time be dumped into prison through our fault or through no fault of ours. One may be dumped into prison on mere suspicion, and when one goes there one is treated no differently from prisoners so that one suffers without having committed the offence of which one has been suspected.

This reminds me of certain acquittal in the lower court in the Federal Capital of Lagos recently. This reflect on the inefficiency of the Police Force. Why should they charge somebody on mere suspicion and remand him in custody and treat him along with prisoners? I think the Police Department should note that they should not remand or charge anybody if they do not satisfy themselves that he has actually committed an offence. It will be sheer injustice if they continue to punish people in this way. It is therefore advisable that separate cells should be provided in the prisons. These cells for 'awaiting trials' should have maximum comfort so that when a person is remanded in prison and not yet a prisoner, he should feel at home. Since he has not yet been convicted he is a free man and, as a free man, he should have the comfort which he would have had if he were in his home.

Point number four is Health Centres in Lagos. I must congratulate the Minister of health on the bold step he has taken to provide health centres in Lagos. But I want to quarrel with him on deciding to remove the Creek Hospital without giving an alternative hospital for at least the VIPs in Lagos. I

want to make mention of these VIPs emphatically. The Creek Hospital has always been serving the VIPs and General Hospital for anybody who cannot afford to have treatment in the Creek Hospital. The alternative which the Minister of Health is suggesting is the Surulere Teaching Hospital. That is too far away. Take, for instance, if anybody gets sick, perhaps before he gets to the Surulere Teaching Hospital he may die on the way, whereas if it were a hospital nearby his life might be saved. I am not against removing the hospital, but I suggest that if the Creek Hospital is to be closed down, an alternative hospital within Lagos Island should be provided for people who are living in Lagos.

A Senator : The sick person can be flown to Surulere.

Senator Abaagu : The Surulere Teaching Hospital is not the answer to this problem.

The President : Will the Senator please address me and not listen to the sides.

Senator Abaagu : I would suggest that the Minister of Health should reconsider his decision.

Now coming to the question of law revision and other matters connected with it, it is very good that Nigeria is now self-governing and therefore should revise our laws to reflect the sovereignty of the country. There is one thing I would suggest : that when we are revising our laws they should be adjusted to local conditions. Why is an accused or a defendant not allowed to quote the law in the court, when he can quote sections of the law ?

The President : As a fact, everybody is allowed to quote provided he is not represented by counsel. You can buy the book, you can quote from the dock. If you are represented by a lawyer you cannot quote but your lawyer can quote. If you are not defended you can buy the book and quote by yourself.

Senator Abaagu : I am very pleased to be educated on this because on several occasions certain Magistrates tell people : "You are not a lawyer, therefore, you are not entitled to quote the law." This point is answered and I am grateful to you, Mr President.

A Senator : So Senator Abaagu can quote law next time.

Senator Abaagu : Yes, if I can quote I will quote because certain laymen are cleverer than some lawyers.

The other point is on the prices attached to certain products manufactured in certain local industries. Why is it that an imported article, when it becomes manufactured locally the price attached to it remains the same? I am saying this in connection with the stout beer, cigarettes, tyres and so on. For about six months now, the Guinness Factory was opened at Ikeja, and one would expect that the price of stout would go down, but to my surprise the price is going up higher and higher. I wonder why. It appears that these foreign investors are making wonderful gains at the expense of Nigerian economy.

Senator E. A. Lagunju : On point of information.

The President : There is no such point really, but go on.

Senator Lagunju : May I tell the Senator that the price of an article is not only determined by the cost of production. There is the question of excise duty and that may be the reason why the price has gone up.

Senator Abaagu : I understand that the import duty paid on an exported article is higher than the excise duty paid on a locally manufactured article. Therefore, I should expect that the price of stout should go down.

The other point is the question of the Joint Tax Assessment Board which the Government is contemplating to set up. It is gratifying to note that efforts will be made to devise a uniform way of assessing tax. It is very disappointing that in Nigeria which is one country, certain Regions impose more tax on the people than the others. I see no reason why this should continue to happen in any part of the Federation. I appreciate that they are autonomous, but then we are in one country and therefore taxes paid in Lagos, in the East, in the West and in the North should be uniform.

The last point I want to make is on the question of the national census. This is a question which has always worried the minds of leaders of this country, and there was a time it boiled to a point of setting the country asunder; but thank God, the Prime Minister came in and

then saved this country from disunity which was then threatening from this issue.

I want to suggest something about this census. It is very impossible to prevail on any Region to agree on any figure arbitrary to what is expected. The point I want to make is that every Region wants to have as more people as possible within its confines, because seats for the Parliament are based on the population of each Region; and we have three political parties, none of them willing to go behind the other. At present the N.P.C. is leading, and it will never yield an inch to any other party. The N.C.N.C. (*Interruptions*)—Well, if I say the N.P.C. is leading it means that they have more members in the House than any other political party.

A Senator : On a point of order, the Senator is talking party politics and is deviating from—(*Interruptions*).

Mr President : He is not. Members certainly have the right to say that there are political parties in this country. That is not taking part in politics.

Senator Abaagu : Thank you very much, Mr President. What I want to tell the Senate is that the N.P.C. will not for any reason yield an inch. The other parties, too, would like to catch up with the N.P.C. and they would like to have more seats in their Regions because the three parties I have mentioned—N.P.C., N.C.N.C., and the Action Group—are stronger in their own respective Regions and each party thinks that the more seats it has in its Regions the more seats it will win to the Federal Legislature, and for this reason no Region is prepared to yield an inch or to compromise on this issue. I would therefore suggest that we forget at this stage increasing the number of seats for the next Parliament.

I partially see with the point made by Senator Chief (Mrs) Wuraola Esan yesterday on the number of seats in the Federal Legislature. If it is decided that the North is forty million, it should only have the same number of seats as it has at present, *i.e.*, 170 or 174; if the East is thirty or fifty million, it should have the 73 seats that it has at present; likewise the West and likewise Lagos. I think the disagreement over the census will become less if this is done. I do not think it will be very wrong because at present we base a seat on the population of a 100,000 people.

For example, if Lagos has three seats, we shall regard Lagos as having 300,000 people. If it should record 600,000 people, then one seat should be allocated to every 200,000. I think that would solve the situation. But as long as the political parties are hoping that the more people they have in their Regions the more seats they will get, this question of census will never end.

This is my suggestion: the seats already allocated to the Federal Legislatures should remain as they are irrespective of the population which Nigeria may have as a result of any other census.

I beg to support.

12.35 p.m.

Senator A. Nwoke: I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency, the Governor-General, for his Speech from the Throne. The Rt. hon. Nnamdi Azikiwe is the greatest African alive to-day. It would have surprised me if the Speech was otherwise. Therefore, I was not alarmed, and I am all the way very grateful to him for delivering it. The Rt. hon. Prime Minister (also a hard-working and quiet man) played a very mighty role with his Cabinet in producing this Speech, and I am very grateful to him for his efforts.

Finally, I thank our able President of the Senate (*Applause*) for presiding over that august gathering, and conducting the affairs of that day so properly as well.

Our non-alignment policy is welcome. The stand of and the part played by Nigeria in rallying round members of the African and Malagasy states to question the death of President Olympio of Togoland was most welcome. The type of frown they showed to this type of brutal murder was welcome too. If an assassin seizes power after murdering somebody in power, what guarantee has he that in course of time another assassin would not come to him? So it becomes a secular type of action with nobody safe at last. From the stand of the Afro-Malagasy states on that issue I doubt whether any other member-group or any other African state can think of murdering anybody in power. We should learn now to go by the ballot box as the final arbiter of political power.

Our stand to supply man-power to other member states in Africa is welcome and the start was boldly made in selecting the personality of our highly respectable Justice Udo Udoma. This too is welcome. Justice Udo Udoma, as other Senators have mentioned, is a man of very high calibre, an honest person, erudite scholar and a man of rich experience in law. He is the right person, I think one of the best that the country could have seconded to Uganda and we all wish him God's guidance in his effort to represent us there.

To increase the number of Police strength in the Country so as to meet up our internal defence and security is most welcome. Unfortunately I have another suggestion to make, quite apart from that increase. I feel that security is the life-blood of any nation—more so a young nation of our type. In order to make security a sound policy, it would be proper to separate the entire security system from Police. It will not be bad if a civilian of integrity heads that department, still under the portfolio of the Prime Minister. It would work if one department faces security at all its levels unbiased while the Police do the disciplinary execution of whatever directives might come from the Prime Minister's Office. If we do not duplicate the system and allow the Police to continue to handle both there might be fear of bias—human nature being what it is. That is why I am feeling that security should be a department divorced from Police activities and Police concern. This does not mean that a Police Officer on his own personal merit would not be seconded to serve in that department; it simply means that he should not serve there on his ticket as a Police Officer. In so doing, I think our internal security will be secured.

I come to the question of training in naval and military matters. I am of the opinion that there should be compulsory military training all over the Federation of both males and females in all secondary schools, I am of the opinion that it is a mistake to train the male element and leave the female; after all a bomb does not know sex, nor the bullet, nor the matchet. So the training in military activities will be jointly done to serve any situation.

There is one thing in talking about disarmament. Disarmament does not necessarily mean that we should not have military training. We should train ourselves properly, get ready for any eventuality because we can only be safe

[SENATOR NWOKE]
 by training ourselves. We fight to get peace and not the other way round. If the nation is militarily trained, the youths of this country will be on the alert for any directives at any time. We cannot continue to preach non-violence when the neighbouring areas or the whole world are armed to the teeth and are getting ready for war or for peace or for any kind of situation. Whatever it is, we should be ready for any eventuality. That is why I support whole-heartedly the compulsory military training in the country—

The President : Order. Under Standing Order 4 (3), this is the moment of interruption.

The hon. Senator will have twenty-five more minutes tomorrow morning.

Debate to be resumed, Tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Senate do now adjourn—(THE MINISTER OF HEALTH).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Senate do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at fifteen minutes to twelve o'clock.

SENATE OF THE FEDERATION
OF NIGERIA

Saturday, 30th March, 1963

The Senate met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

BUSINESS STATEMENT

The Minister of Health (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): Mr President, Sir, I wish to make the following Business Statement to the Senate. The Debate on the Motion for an Address will continue to-day and will also continue on Monday. I would like to appeal to Senators please to remain in Lagos because on Monday during the debate on the Motion for an Address, we hope to receive a message from the other place which will convey the text of a Bill for a Constitutional Amendment. This Bill requires a two-thirds majority and it is necessary that we should pass it early in this Session so that the Regional Legislatures could take it. That is why we very much like to take it on Monday otherwise if we conclude our Debate to-day, we will rise to-day. But we hope we shall be able to rise on Monday and reconvene after Easter.

The President: Order. I want to add to what the Minister has said. We have been selected to this Senate to do a job of work and if on Monday we do not form two-thirds majority, it will be a slur on the Senate and the public will think that we are not doing our duty. So, I ask everybody to spend his weekend wherever he wants to spend it, and please let all of us be on our seats on Monday.

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba: According to your last announcement, Mr President, I should like to say that we should endeavour to finish to-day's business and I expect that by Monday most of the Members who are not here shall have arrived and we shall be able to go on with other Business.

ORDER OF THE DAY

GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH (MOTION FOR
AN ADDRESS)ADJOURNED DEBATE ON QUESTION (28TH
MARCH):

Question again proposed, That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency, the Governor-General, as follows:—

"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."

The President: Senator Nwoke, I think you have another twenty five minutes.

9.06 a.m.

Senator A. Nwoke: Thank you, Sir. I rise to continue to support the Motion of Thanks to the Governor-General for the important Speech from the Throne. It is not easy to resume a speech after a break of so many hours. I think this sort of difficulty was experienced by the Radio Reporter who mentioned somebody else's name as winding up the Debate in this Senate yesterday. However, I will continue.

As I was saying yesterday, the Speech from the Throne is an encyclopaedia of all the activities of the Federal Government, that being so, I can only touch on the points that require my immediate attention.

Yesterday, I suggested that our Security Division should be separated from the Police Department for obvious reasons. I also made reference to compulsory military training for boys and girls in school. This second point, I think, requires a little bit of emphasis. Training of girls for military service is done in some parts of the world. If even this is not so, I think it is essential that human beings irrespective of sex should be equally brought up in any field of endeavour.

In the good old days when the Ohafia Abam warriors went to war, they used to go with their womenfolk. I remember the case of a woman who died in the late 1940's. She went to one of these wars and brought back home a head along with her menfolk and she enjoyed the bounties of having had that prowess. When she died, she was given the same ritual that was given to men who achieved much in the field of battle. If that could be done in those good old days when people had to travel for a number of days to go on these exploits why is it that now when we have

[SENATOR NWOKE]
only to press the button or use the revolver, it should not be done? I submit that our womenfolk should be given equal opportunity in this compulsory military training.

Recent happenings in the country have actually made it possible or rather imperative that the nation should be on the alert. I am not trying to insinuate that there will be war. There will be no war whatsoever, we pray against it, but whatever it is we must have to be ready for any eventuality.

I now come to the question of our relationship with our former masters, the British. Certain incidents have taken place recently in Britain and it now seems to be a rule for every British journalist to attack our most respectable leader, Dr the hon. Nnamdi Azikiwe. There have been so many spurious attacks in the British Press and I am beginning to feel that an attack on Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe is now one of the qualifications for the membership of the British Institute of Journalism. If it is not, then I shall be happy. It is getting too much and I am happy that at one time His Excellency the British High Commissioner in Nigeria had to intervene. I think we have to press him for more intervention.

Recently, it was reported that the corpse of a Nigerian lay in the British mortuary for over fifty days. This is absolute carelessness on the part of the authorities. They should not teach us one thing and do another. Except where the corpse was being preserved for burial purposes, there is no earthly reason why such a thing should happen. But there we are, it happened, and in the very heart of Britain for that matter. I think sufficient respect was not given to the deceased. Whether or not the deceased had somebody to bury him, I think for the purpose of decency and sanitation efforts should have been made to remove it from the mortuary unless the mortuary was meant to be its final resting place.

I now come to the vexed question of the extradition of Chief Enahoro. This point has been emphasised by many Senators. Britain is not a dead horse. If she were, we should not have continued to flog her. So I think we must continue to flog this our former master who taught us one thing and is doing another. Here is a young man who has been accused of a very serious offence in the country; he escaped from the country and the international law of extradition has been invoked

in order to bring him back into the country but the British people will not allow the law to take its course. Now they are asking us for an assurance as to how the law will be operated.

This is a very grave charge on our ability to run our affairs as a free sovereign nation. For these three points I find myself at sea to see exactly what must be the reason for these actions from our past masters who are now our friends. Could it be that they are regretting having let go the faithful servants? I know it is human nature that no master would like to part with a useful servant, but all the way we acknowledged and appreciated their aid to us and sent them back to their homes as friends. They are no longer our masters. That should not have angered them as to behave in the way they do nowadays. It will be most opportune if we can press—and I think the Press has made the same remark—that the British High Commissioner in Nigeria should be called upon to give us a categorical assurance, even after the case of Enahoro, that Britain will stop insulting our sovereignty. If that assurance is given along with other demands made by other Members I think we shall as a result be assured that our former masters are really true friends who want to get up to their heights and even above them.

Another point I would like to make is about fire fighting plans which are to be introduced, that is, the Bill to improve the Federal Fire Service. I would add this point. Even though fire is not a Federal subject as such, we should extend these activities to areas like Port Harcourt. After all the Federal Government has interests and industries at Port Harcourt and should protect them there. The Federal Government should also have interest in or sympathy for the population of Ibadan and Kano. Such areas should receive immediate attention of the Fire Fighting Service of the Federation. We should not just confine this system to Lagos which is the Federal Capital.

The President : May I remind the Senator that fire fighting comes under residual powers in the Constitution, that means it belongs to the Regions.

Senator Nwoke : Thank you very much.

The President : The Federal Government can take action in so far as the Federal Territory is concerned.

Senator Nwoke : Well, it is just a weak point. I am not trying to debate with the President, but I do see sanity in extending certain activities which are in the Federal Capital to the Regions. Supposing the Eastern Region cannot equip efficiently for lack of funds or other reasons?

The President : That will be hypothetical.

Senator Nwoke : And then the interest of the Federal Government suffers at Port Harcourt or somewhere else.

The President : May I ask the Senator not to indulge in a dialogue with me.

Senator Nwoke : That is why I ask special leave of you, Mr President, to digress a bit. However, we will leave that as it is.

Going back to the Federal Capital the Speech was emphatic that each ward in the Federal Capital should be provided with a health centre. That is good enough, and I wish the Federal Capital every luck, but there is one serious omission and that is, in addition to this supply of health centres there should be plans to provide at least one boarding house for children. Such a boarding house will relieve the anxiety of parents who either go on transfers from the Federal Capital or on study leave to Britain or other parts of the world. If such a provision is made by the Federal Government it will augur well for such parents and their children.

Another point I would like to touch upon is aid to indigenous African business men.

The President : The Senator has five minutes.

Senator Nwoke : Thank you, Mr President. If this class of people are aided, as the Speech has indicated, it will really benefit not only themselves but also the community; it will mean another source of employment of labour for school leavers and unemployed Nigerians both in the Federal Capital and in the Regions. So, that is a very welcome project.

There are other points I would have liked to touch but very unfortunately time is against me, and naturally it is not possible for me to go through the whole Speech.

My last point is that time is overdue for our Constitution to be revised to implement a Republican system of Government in this country. It is rather fortunate or unfortunate that ours is a written Constitution, a product

of Lancaster factory. But we have to reproduce it in the best way possible after these days of experience in Nigeria, and if that is done we will keep abreast of the other member states of the Inter-African and Malagasy Organisation. Time is on me, and whatever I do not touch—

The President : I think you mean time is against you.

Senator Nwoke : Yes, Mr President, I mean that time is against me.

My last point will be for just two minutes in which I want to speak on Cinematography. It is very unsafe to spread television all over the country. I am not against the system but I am against the type of pictures shown. The present day Americans who feature prominently in these pictures do not see chivalry, so, in their efforts to remind themselves of chivalrous days gone by they carry revolvers and jack knives about, and children looking at these things day after day and night after night start to grow with this hooliganism in them. I feel that care should be taken to make our own local films within the Federation.

Before you call me to order to sit down, Mr President, I support the Motion.

Senator Oba Adeniji Adele II : I rise to support the Motion and all that has been said by Senator Lagunju. In doing so I would like to express my thanks to those Senators who during their speeches have said that Lagos needs more attention from the Federal Government. As for my part I have nothing but praise for the Federal Government.

It is true that Lagos is stinking as some Senators have said. This must be admitted if we are not to deceive ourselves, but I know the Government is constantly having the matter under consideration and something might be done before long. The only solution to this stinking position is the creation or the erection of a sewage system in Lagos. If that is done the present complaints will be removed to some extent if not totally eliminated.

I think Lagos does not belong to the natives alone. There are many Nigerians who by long residence have become real Lagosians, like the Prime Minister and Members of his Cabinet. They have been here for so long as to qualify them to become natives, and we are very happy to see that they are here to-day.

[SENATOR OBA ADELE]

My Chiefs and I have not closed our eyes on the question of soil erosion at the Bar Beach. On several occasions we have approached the appropriate authorities and tendered what I may call our own crude advice but the authorities seem to believe the scientific approach of men from Holland who could do better to stop the erosion and all our advice has been cast aside. Personally, I went to the Bar Beach and the Ports Authority several times with some of my Chiefs to see what could be done but we were told that similar things have happened in Holland. We were told that as the erosion was treated in Holland so it will be treated in Lagos. Unfortunately, the erosion has continued and miles of useful land has been swept away.

The erosion has not just come suddenly, and we were afraid that we might be submerged one night. For this reason we have been doing all we can to advise the authorities but up till the present moment the Government seems to feel that the pouring of sand into the sea or upon the Beach will stop the erosion. Even if success is achieved in this way, I shall regard it as merely temporary, because all of us who have been in Lagos for years, including the President himself, know exactly how many of the landmarks of the Bar Beach have been carried away. The whole House, I think, will in course of time have to join with me in approaching the Government to do something to save not only the Bar Beach but the whole of the Island of Lagos.

As the Spiritual Head of this township, I have been doing all that could be possibly done in the matter of appeasing the sea god. When one prays the prayer may not necessarily be answered immediately, yet it may be answered one day. (*Hear, hear*). I would say that at this stage we do not need any advice from our erstwhile lord from Benin (*Laughter*) as we have been on our own since 1819 and the lords of yesterday from Benin should rest contented that we are to-day competent to do all that is possible.

The medical centres that have been instituted in Lagos are not for the people of Lagos alone but for all residents of Lagos. It is not only the natives that are residing in Lagos to-day; we have people from different parts of Nigeria and outside. Whatever is done is done not for us alone but for the whole of the residents of Lagos.

We all should join in expressing our sincere gratitude to Senator Chief Majekodunmi who has been taking such a very keen interest in the affairs of this country. Senators may not be aware that Senator Chief Majekodunmi had been on this job for several years before he ever became a Senator, even before he ever became a Senior Specialist in the female section of the Lagos Hospital. He has done a lot; our women do appreciate it and I do appreciate it as well. Through him we have submitted petitions to the Government so that something might be done to relieve the congestion at the clinic where some time ago, you might have read, women in the family way used to sleep two in a bed. To-day we are thankful to God that the position has been reversed. We have a comfortable place for these women and we are grateful to the Minister. Lagos is particularly grateful to him and it was in appreciation of his services to Lagos that he was about eighteen months ago made Chief Mayegun of Lagos.

Finally, I do not wish to take a long time because a lot has been said about whatever I or any other Senator may wish to say but I will say that the question of education is a very important matter. As I have said, I have nothing but praise for the Federal Government. Some time ago we were given scholarship for which we have been praying. Scholarship for natives and for people who have been residing in Lagos for many years and who have no claims to scholarships from other areas of Nigeria. We are very grateful indeed but there is still one snag in the whole matter. In Lagos we have no secondary schools of our own. In the Western Region there are some Government secondary schools which are solely and wholly intended for the sons and daughters of the soil. In the East there is the same thing. I should in this connection mention particularly the Umuahia Government College. When advertisements are made for the entrance examination it is always specifically stated that only those who are descendants of the Eastern Region should apply. In the West something similar was done some time ago about the Ibadan Grammar School. Well on the question of Umuahia and Ibadan I will say that I am perfectly right because I have been taking very keen interest in the matter of education and I have scrutinised every advertisement that came out in

the past. I have actually gone into this matter with the Education Authority, the former Director of Education and others. Now what we need in Lagos is this: We say we have been given some privilege to have scholarships only to be competed for by the natives and by the children of people who have long residence in Lagos but can we use these scholarships where we have got to have certain qualifications to gain admission into the colleges?

We have secondary schools in Lagos. Most of these secondary schools are occupied by children from other parts of Nigeria. What we need now and what I am asking the Senators to join with me in asking wholeheartedly is a secondary school intended solely and wholly for the indigenous children of Lagos and the children of those who have had long residence in Lagos. This secondary school should have extensions so that on getting the School Certificate the children may proceed straightaway to the extension course without having to undergo rigorous examinations. We have a limited number of seats in King's College, for instance. After the entrance examination the successful candidates are sifted and some eliminated. In going through the sifting of the scholars, Lagos children are in some cases eliminated. Children from secondary schools and all other schools not only in Lagos but also in the provinces come to the Iga occasionally to visit me. I used to ask them, "Where do you come from? They would say, "We come from such and such a place." On one occasion I asked a pupil in the extended class in King's College to be specific, "where do you come from? He said from so and so school. Then I asked him again, "Native of what place are you?" He answered, "Native of Benin". Then to another one I asked, "What school do you attend?" He gave the name of the school. I further asked him, "Where do you come from?" He said, "I come from Okitipupa." I went on like that until I had gone through all the students. Out of all the pupils that came before me on that particular day, I could hardly get one who is a Lagos boy. Nearly all of them came from the provinces. What happens is this, these children attended schools in Lagos and when they were being selected the authorities that were selecting children did not regard them as having come from the provinces but from Lagos simply because they

attended schools in Lagos. They have no idea that these children were sent by their parents to come and school in Lagos. Even the Minister of Education, until I explained the whole matter to him, was not fully aware of that position. I also asked him that if the Government provides us with secondary school or university scholarships and we have not got the children who are qualified for the scholarships, what will happen?

It was Senator Chief (Mrs) Wuraola Esan who was saying some time ago that Lagos children should not be given scholarships simply because they were Lagos children if they had not got the necessary qualification. In this respect, I am asking this Senate specially to join me in demanding a special secondary school for the natives of Lagos and for the children of those who have been living in Lagos for a long time and have, by that, become natives of Lagos. I also ask that the school should have extension classes just like the King's College and some other Government Colleges in the provinces.

I beg to support.

Senator Chief P. C. Ndu : Much grounds have been covered on the Motion of Thanks by the Senators who spoke before me. However, I have a few comments to make.

I have to congratulate His Excellency the Governor-General on the Speech which he so ably delivered from the Throne. It is remarkable, impressive and meaningful. The Speech from the Throne has commended the Medical Department. For this reason I feel I have to congratulate the Minister of Health on the able work and the way and manner he has been handling the medical affairs of this country. That is not all.

I also would like to point out that the Government should enact a certain law and it should be carried out vigorously. I ask for this law because of certain offenders. When I say certain offenders, I mean those self-styled "doctors" who go about administering illegal injections which of course claim many lives.

Senator H. N. Udoh : On a point of explanation, Mr President—

The President : Order! As a matter of fact, a point of explanation is only relevant if the Senator had made a speech and he was

[THE PRESIDENT]
being misquoted. On that ground only can he raise a point of explanation.

Senator Udoh : On a point of information then.

The President : There is no such point. There are only two points: a point of order or a point of explanation.

Senator Udoh : On a point of order, before the Senator goes any farther, I would like to remind reporters that it is now Mr Ndu speaking and not Mr Udoh.

Senator Chief Ndu : I want Senator Udoh to note that I am Senator Chief P. C. Ndu. It has been gazetted.

As I was saying, there are some offenders and those offenders are self-styled "doctors" They go about administering illegal injections to people which ultimately claim the lives of the people of this country. If these people are allowed to continue like that unchecked, the population of this country will not be growing. I feel that it is high time the Government made it impossible for some of those people to order medical equipments like syringe, drugs and other things. One can see some of these people going about as simple people but, nevertheless, they have some wraps of medical equipments and drugs in their pockets. No sooner they hear of someone suffering from headache or fever somewhere than they go there and employ themselves as doctors. I feel that they should not be allowed to order medical equipments and drugs indiscriminately.

There is one other point which I would like to comment upon. I heard His Excellency comment on the question of mine workers at Enugu and Jos. The mine workers have got nothing else to depend on for their livelihood except the proceeds from mining.

On this question of mining, I feel the Minister of Mines and Power should be congratulated. However, I have to say that he should be in a position to advise the Nigerian Railway Corporation to continue the use of coal especially for the engines meant for carrying goods and concentrate the diesel engines for passenger coaches only until the country is able to find a good market for our coal. This, of course, will offer the miners a

steady employment instead of displacing them thus swelling further the unemployment figures which are already high in this country.

There is one other point which I want to make about tin mining in Jos. The Minister of Mines and Power should be advised as well to see to it that the price of tin and its quota are increased so as to enable the mine workers in the Northern Region to continue to have enough money to keep them in the industry rather than their leaving the mines and thus worsening the unemployment problem in that part of the country.

I would like to make a few points on the question of cinematograph which other Senators have spoken about. I will not, however, touch the points which they have already covered. You will be interested to hear from me, Mr President, that 20 years ago there was not much heard in this country about vehicle stealing. But to-day the cinema has taught our children, boys and girls, how to steal cars, so one's car is not quite safe while attending a function unless there is a policeman around. I feel that the disadvantages of the cinema are more than its advantages, and I hope that the Government will look into this.

I support the Motion.

9.50 a.m.

Senator Chief S. O. Esangbedo : I rise to support the Motion. His Excellency said that consideration will be given to the introduction of measures designed to deal with the greater welfare of prisoners, so that when they return to the society, they do so fully equipped, mentally and physically, to take their rightful place in the community. In addition, accommodation will continue to be extended to facilitate the classification and segregation of the various types of prisoners, so as to separate and protect the first offender from the habitual. I have often visited prison yards. I visited their back yards, their farms, and I even tasted their food. Their food is not properly prepared at all and is extremely poor. The cells in which they are accommodated are equally poor. I think this is a move being made by this Government to improve this state of affairs.

"The need for the development of postal services, particularly in the rural areas, will be met by a revision of the present policy govern-

ing the establishment of postal agencies and post offices. Thirteen new post office buildings will be completed during the year, and a new post office building programme will be planned."

This is encouraging. I come from a rural area and I have to remind you again, Mr President, that our postal agency at Igueben has been in operation since 1940, and since then Igueben has progressed in every way. We have about six primary schools, a girls' school, a demonstration school,—

Several Senators : We have all those things too.

Chief Esangbedo : We have a teacher training college, and we also have a Catholic grammar school. With all this, I think it is necessary that we should have a post office in that area.

I want to say something about this boxing business. I see no reason why we should encourage boxing. I describe boxing as brutal, merciless, cruel, unpleasant and beast-like. I know many people like boxing, and do not wish to keep them away from it, but we should not encourage it at all.

I observe that even though we have been here for years, this house has never received sufficient air conditioning. I am almost suffocating whenever I am here. I think something has got to be done to see that we get sufficient air in this House. (*Hear, hear*).

Senator Chief R. A. Umoh : I rise to fall in line with and support the Motion of Thanks to the Governor-General for his Speech from the Throne.

It is true that the Speech was such a delightful one that gladdened the ears of everybody. This shows exactly the ability of the man, his experience in politics, and his ability to head, lead and direct his Government. He spoke with energy. As a matter of fact, he is to be warmly congratulated.

While congratulating him on his wonderful Speech from the Throne, we have to congratulate the Prime Minister, the Members of the Council of Ministers, as well as the civil servants and everybody who co-operated to produce this very effective Government of the Federation.

I have always referred to the civil servants as able helpers to the Government. We all remember when there was a crisis in the

West, when the Government was weak, and almost down, the people who really helped were the civil servants. Therefore, we have every reason to be proud of the civil servants in this great Federation, and so we should encourage them in their work in order to get them more interested in whatever they do.

I wish to say that every ill in the civil service should be cured. Every protection should be given to promote efficiency, and we should only promote those who are good. We should promote nobody on the basis of tribal consideration or anything of the sort. Promotion should come to those who are most worthy of it by way of ability and qualification. I would not wish to go into details about this.

I now have to go over to congratulate the Governor-General and his Government on the able way in which they initiated the Inter-African and Malagasy Organisation. That shows the ability of the Government and people of the Federation of Nigeria. It shows also their foresight, for, while others are trying to organise things elsewhere, our Government is also on the look out to see what they too can do.

This, of course, is the prelude to the forthcoming conference of Inter-African and Malagasy Organisation, in collaboration with the Casablanca group, to be held in Addis Ababa.

It will also be seen, no doubt, that this will have the effect of forming the establishment of the River Niger commission. This Convention will be able to abrogate the Berlin Treaty of 1885-86. This is a real consolation, and I am particularly happy about that issue.

I congratulate the Government on the proposed increase in the strength of the Nigeria Police Force. I would suggest that the strength should not only be centred here in the Federal Capital, it should be scattered all about in the Provinces. The Police Force in the Provinces should be equally strengthened.

To put forth the minds of my people on this issue—I am from Anang Province—the people of my Province are on the footing of equality with all the Provinces in the Eastern Region and want to have our police headquarters headed by a senior police officer who should be resident in Anang Province. As a matter of fact, we do not like the Uyo/Anang Police Province. Uyo is a separate Province, big enough by itself with many Police units, and

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Anang is another Province by itself capable of having its own police province. We do not want to be tied to the apron-string of any other province where police matters are concerned. We want to stand by ourselves in everything pertaining to provincial set-up. That is the mind of my people. We have been mentioning this to the Federal Government here and we do not seem to hear anything about our agitation. I am putting it before the Government now that Anang Province should be given a police headquarters with a senior police officer who should be resident in Anang Province. We have everything in the form of amenities and facilities to keep him happy there.

I want to say something about the production of arms in this country. I wish to put before the Government that while all these are being done, if we want to consolidate our position as regards guarding against outside enemies, we should be able to have our own armouries throughout Nigeria. That will show that we are truly independent in a way. Why we talk about Britain and very many other places is because if there is anything to-day, we are all going to rush to them asking them to supply us this and that. We must keep abreast of the times and ask ourselves: "Are we capable of facing our enemies?" The only way we can do this is by producing our war materials ourselves. I wish to sound a note of warning to the Federal Government about this. They should do something about it immediately.

I am now going to say something about the award of scholarships because that affects my Province very greatly. I have said it before in this House that while the awards are being made by the Federal Government, I know the Regional Governments do make some, but the Federal Government is for all the nation since it is the conglomeration of all the Governments of the Federation and as a result is the head. Therefore, when considering scholarships we should pay attention in a way to those remote areas that have never got even one scholarship from the Federal Government.

What is the criterion for granting scholarships to candidates? It should be the area from which they come. Take, for example, the Onitsha Province where about ten people have scholarships each time; whereas if you

look through you can only see one person from Anang Province. We in Anang Province have no opportunity to get these scholarships, and I wonder why.

I now go on to say something about loans. I wonder what is the standing order covering the award of loans. Is it according to the thing that is being said, as the Gospel puts it, that to those who have shall be given, and those who have little, even that little shall be taken from them and given to those who have? It is something I cannot understand.

I have studied very carefully the story of the award of loans in the Federation and I have discovered that it is only the rich that go on enriching themselves from the loans from the Federal Government. The first thing, particularly those who are resident in Lagos, is that they will ask you to show the number of houses you have. If you are able to show about ten buildings, if you ask for £100,000 definitely you will get it. You are going to get it because you are able to produce what they call security. But mark you, it is not only this security that should be the criteria. There should be something else.

The President: I am sure Senator Chief Umoh will like the money lent to come back.

Senator Chief Umoh: Well, definitely!

The President: Would you loan it to some body who cannot pay it back?

Senator Chief Umoh: Well, there is a way they could do it. I am constructive in my speech. Whenever I suggest something on the Floor of this House I always suggest a way of remedying it.

In the first place, if you, a Member of the Senate, have somebody in your area who is quite competent to do something—that is when they are speaking of industry—you know his ability and this man comes to get a loan from the Federal Government, if even he produces a surety, even if the President of the Senate says he knows this man, they will say that is not sufficient. But is it only those who are already rich that can get anything? If that is the case, people from the Regions can never get the Federal loans. They tell these people they have no property and, as a result, they are not worthy to have any loans.

I feel that two things should be considered—personality and surety. Sureties should be taken into consideration. After all, the food production in this country is done by the majority not only of those who are rich. Different people in different places by little efforts produce food for this country. Therefore, why not distribute the loans to help these people? Why not do something like what is being done in the Eastern Region? If you have about five acres of land and you start something, they will give you some loans to help you maintain it. How are we helping the common people in the towns and villages? Are we helping only those who are building houses? How do we help them to develop in agriculture? I think more attention should be given to that. These women who are toiling day and night to produce something in the farms, how are we helping them? Suppose they group themselves together and come to ask for a loan, could we not give them something to go and start on?

Why not try to help them in things of that nature? I am therefore putting this point very strongly to the Government that something should be done to help. After all the very fabric, the growth of this country, depends on the agricultural efforts of our own people; and all round Lagos here I do not think that much has been done about agriculture. Why not set up an organisation to help the people? They are paying taxes promptly. Some people pay it without difficulty but these poor people till the land with very great difficulty.

I now come to the establishment of industries. When we speak of industries we seem to think only of the Federal capital. But what are we doing to make the people feel that the Government is still catering for them? We speak of inter-Regional secondary schools in the Regions. Why not establish certain things in different areas of the Region? I do not mean such things that are very near the ports. I mean in the interior parts of the different provinces where raw materials abound. If we say that a thing should not be done we should try to suggest an alternative. To put a child out of temptation give him something to serve as an alternative and he will forget about the other thing. If he looks at the new thing he will feel contented.

I speak about the whole Calabar province. When we all stand on the Floor of this House

and speak about smuggling and say that the whole of Calabar is the seat of smugglers. (Interruptions).

The President : The hon. Minister of State (*Dr Esin*) says it is the industry of Calabar province.

Senator Chief Umoh : Well, I am putting it before the Government that something should have been done to stop it in a very good way instead of leaving a magistrate there to see about trying offenders in that area, especially those in the smuggling business. Why not try to do something constructive? What has the Federal Government yet done in that area to show the people that it has their welfare in mind? The first thing that comes to mind there is the *panya* drink, the Spanish drink. We say that they are drinking a lot of it.

There is also the production of palm wine in that very area. I have been saying that every time in this House. They produce this wine and sell it not only in the Eastern Region but also in the Federal capital, in the North and in the West. Could we not make something out of that raw material?

A Senator : Illicit gin?

Senator Chief Umoh : Yes, why not set up a factory to produce such drinks? We produce *Fanta* and many other things here. Set up a factory there and produce something and get the people interested in this drink and they will be used to it. They will then forget about the *panya* drink. If a policeman wants to arrest them for having that drink, they will say, 'please wait and let me finish this one'. They have been drinking it and they are used to it. Why not get an alternative and get them used to it and forget about the other one? Well, that is what I am thinking. That is more constructive than pursuing them and not doing anything to get them interested.

A Senator : Are you a school master?

Senator Chief Umoh : There is no need asking me.

It is very good to provide technical training for prisoners. If you leave a prisoner in prison for about fifteen years he has gone for "training". He is then qualified as an evil doer. He is qualified; he feels that he is good for nothing. He can even fight you and get your money. If you ask him he will say, "Take me to prison I am used to it". The

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 only alternative is to provide something in the Prison to have these men well polished. There is one thing lacking in this country. In my school days there was something like moral instruction. Moral instruction is dying out; religious instruction is going on somehow. Religion and moral should go hand in hand because not everybody likes to be very religious. Moral is important for law and order. If you think of the laws of the country alone you refrain from doing anything wrong when you know you will be seen; but once you know you will not be seen you can become anything. If a child's morals had been strengthened and the child is well brought up that child would never like to do anything wrong even when he would not be seen by anyone. The child's conscience would punish him if he did the wrong thing. When the conscience is there everything is safe.

In every Region moral instruction should form one of the basic factors in the school curriculum. I feel training in prison will be very very good.

Another way we can train the people in prison is to teach them to love the soil. These people come from different places and the very first thing they will do on discharge is to revert to the soil. In certain areas in Iboland and the Western Region they do not buy land, unlike in my own area where we have to buy land with fat sums of money because of the thickness of population.

Open an area of land and then get the prisoners to learn how to till the land scientifically, so that when they come out they will not like to do evil again and instead they can become directors and teach others how to till the soil. I feel that while we provide them with technical training in how to make chairs and other things, we can teach them to revert to the soil when they are discharged. This will make them realise that doing evil is nothing but a waste of time.

Classification of prisoners is also something for which we should congratulate the Government. If you allow habitual offenders to mix with first offenders, these habitual offenders train them and make them become doers of evil; destroy their conscience, and as soon as the conscience is dead they will have no shame even if caught in the market place. When the sense of shame is destroyed a man is nowhere, he is out of the world.

Fire Services Bill. The idea of bringing this Bill to the Floor of this House is very very good. After all you see I have something to thank the Federal Government for. I have been thinking about this in my own mind because when I first came to Lagos I found that Lagos was too dirty, contrary to my expectation, because I felt it was a place that was marked with perfect cleanliness. It was full of slum, filth, with suffocating odours. It had every description you could give to it.

The President: The Senator is talking about fire fighting.

Senator Chief Umoh: Yes, I am sorry I have deviated somehow. What I am trying to put before the Government is that I am very happy to see the way the Government is being carried on. I am very happy to see the way the Ministers are discharging their duties, particularly the Minister in charge of Lagos area, because when I first came here I found that Lagos was very dirty (then it was managed by expatriates). It is not very long since we had our Independence but anybody coming to Lagos will be impressed with the cleanliness. Lagos has been kept very clean and beautiful buildings are being erected. That is a great change and something for which the Government should be congratulated.

Another important matter which is very much on my mind is Cinematograph. All that we see in the cinema is nothing but scandalous show. This has helped to spoil all the young girls and boys in this country. As a matter of fact, left to the Africans we have a very wonderful law ingrained in our minds. According to our laws and customs we have a very good way of going about things. Most of the films which are being imported into this country are not good. These people show us how they do evils in their own countries, how they steal, and their high standard of immorality, and when our young boys and girls see all these in the films they start to practise them. The bad films should stop coming. The only films we should allow in our cinemas should be films that will teach our children how to behave well. Whatever they see in the films will reflect in them when they grow up and they will be practising them. Show them things that are wrong and tell

them not to do them. It was just as God told Adam not to do the thing that was bad, and immediately God walked away, Adam started to practise it.

A Senator : Are you suggesting that God was wrong ?

Senator Chief Umoh : I am sorry I am quoting God. How are we going to stop this ? The best way is to show them how culture is practised, so that when our children grow up they will behave well. Show your daughter how a good housewife should behave in the house with her husband, how a mother should treat her children. When she goes out of school she will behave well and when she marries, she will be a good housewife. All the politicians here come from good homes. If your wife troubles you a great deal, you cannot think of anything. I even wonder whether you can have time to do any good thing for this country, except you have a good wife that nurses and encourages you in your daily labour. The film of such a housewife should be screened in our cinemas. Other women will emulate her and they will do likewise. These things are very important.

The last time I spoke in this Senate, I said that our people should be taught road signs to minimise accidents. Many of them walk on the roads and forget to look right and left when they want to cross. While driving our cars we see that happens daily on the roads. Most of the accidents that occur on the roads are due to lack of the knowledge of traffic signs. Why can we not show traffic signs in our cinemas ? If these traffic signs are shown in films which are being screened in our cinemas, people will be careful on the roads. Before they cross any road they will look properly and see that no vehicle is coming. The films which teach our people how to steal, how to pick pocket, how to cheat and so forth should be stopped.

The President : Senator Chief Umoh has two minutes more.

Senator Chief Umoh : As regards the establishment of Airports in different places, I would like the Government to take into consideration the plight of the common man. The cost of travelling by air should be reduced to be within easy reach of everybody. It should be like the 'Peany Post'. If the rate

is reduced many people will be travelling by air and more money will accrue therefrom. I would like Airports to be established in all Provinces in the Regions. I do not exclude my Province when I say this. Anang Province would like to have an Airport.

The establishment of a Sports Council is something that I like very much. After all, Hogan Bassey was the first to project the personality of this country abroad. As a matter of fact at that time nobody thought that a country like Nigeria, that was hidden somehow could have such a strong man to rival the strongest man in the world. We were not independent then. He won that title and that was a great glory ; not only that, others are emerging. Dick Tiger is doing a great deal at the moment. At the moment, he is the world champion. There is no reason why we should not pay great attention to Sports. We have many promising young men in this country who will do better in the future. Let us encourage them and let us go to the forefront. There are many ways of exhibiting our glory to the world ; it is not only by talent but by power. This is an art. Our young men should be encouraged.

Mr President, I am very sorry, I would like to talk about postal agency—

The President : Order ! The idea of my warning the Senator is that I may not have to call him abruptly to stop. But you have been developing new topics after new topics and the Senate is going to stay about six weeks altogether. All these subjects are bound to recur in various Bills. You need not say everything on this one occasion.

Senator Chief Umoh : Mr President, I beg to wind up.

10.26 a.m.

Senator S. Eytayo : I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to his Excellency the Governor-General for his Speech which was delivered to the Joint Session of both Houses of Parliament on Wednesday last. As has been expressed by previous Senators who have spoken, the Speech from the Throne this year is comprehensive and contains much food for thought.

Most of the points I wish to speak upon have been mentioned by previous Senators I shall only confine myself to some observations

[SENATOR EYITAYO]
and most of these observations are by way of thanks to the Government. In the first place, I would like to congratulate the Federal Government for its intention to proceed to ratify the Charter of the Inter-African and Malagasy Organisation which was duly signed here in December by the accredited representatives of the member states.

Why should the Federal Government be congratulated on this? Prior to this time the Federal Government had often been accused of being too slow in taking the initiative in anything pertaining to the unity of the African States. This present move is positive proof to disprove this erroneous accusation. That is why the Government should be congratulated. Now that our hopes have been raised, I hope the Federal Government will try to explore all possibilities to make this good intention become a reality.

In the second place I would like to congratulate the Federal Government for its intention to conclude economic and cultural bilateral agreements with countries all over the world irrespective of their political belief. I know this is easier said than done. But we all know that our Prime Minister is a man of undoubted integrity, so we hope that whenever the occasion arises to conclude this agreement, the Federal Government will bear this in mind.

In the third place, I would like to congratulate the Government for its decision to do something by way of providing internal security for the people of Nigeria. Recent events in Nigeria and outside Nigeria, far and near, seem to suggest that life is now not safe at all. What is the use of spending large sums of money on all these Development Plans when after all one is not going to live to enjoy even a little of the fruit of one's labour. I would, therefore, urge the Government to take it as something of prime importance. It should not be treated as mere paper work but something that the Government will translate into action immediately.

Another thing for which I would like to congratulate the Government is the scheme to improve the Sapele Ferry Service and also the Koko Port so that it may be possible for large ships to enter.

Sometimes, one likes to take these Speeches from the Throne with a little grain of salt

because year in and year out many things are said that do not materialise. I trust that the Government will endeavour to carry out all the schemes contained in this particular speech, particularly the improvements to the Bonny River channel, the Sapele Ferry Service and the Koko Port. These things should not be treated as mere pious platitudes or paper work.

I would like also to associate myself with what other Senators have said about Lagos. We all know that Lagos is the Federal Capital of Nigeria and no amount of money will be too much to spend on the development of this township. As we all know too, many people come from abroad—these people may be Ambassadors, strangers or just casual visitors—to see what Nigeria is like. There is no doubt that their first port of call is Lagos and the impression these people get of Lagos is, more likely than not, bound to affect their impression of the whole country. So I agree with other Senators who have spoken that the best should be done to make Lagos an attractive capital which will serve as a model for all the other towns in Nigeria. The same thing can be said of all the other regional capitals like Ibadan, Kaduna and Enugu. Government should try to do all it can to help in improving these regional capitals.

While still on the question of Lagos, I might say that we have heard from the Speech from the Throne that Government is trying to provide about eight new Health Centres for the municipality of Lagos. This is a very bold step indeed. I know that health and medical matters are within regional competence, that is, that every Regional Government is for providing medical facilities in its area of authority. But at the same time it will not be too premature if the Federal Government is urged to give more money to the Regional Governments so that they too may be able to do more by way of providing medical facilities for their people as is being envisaged for the capital city of Lagos.

As I have said I do not want to repeat all that other Senators have said. I think there will be time for bringing up other matters as the Budget Session continues. So with these few remarks, I beg to support.

Senator Chief Z. C. Obi : I welcome the opportunity to subscribe to the Motion of humble thanks which His Excellency the Rt. hon. Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, Governor-

General and Commander-in-Chief of the Federation of Nigeria, now as always, so richly deserves for his speech to the Senate and the House of Representatives of Nigeria on the morning of March 27th, 1963.

It is gratifying to note that our Government will shortly proceed to ratify the Charter of the Inter-African and Malagasy Organisation which it spear-headed last December. This is another step forward in the selfless desire of our Government to promote unity and understanding among these states, and I congratulate our Government.

It is also pleasing to note that in its policy of non-alignment in world politics, which this august Senate always keenly supports, our Government intends to strengthen the process of concluding economic and cultural bilateral agreements with other countries, and to promote her external relations with other countries by establishing a few more Missions in the Americas and the Far East. These intentions of our Government are steps in the right direction and are very much welcomed.

During the 1962 Parliamentary Delegation to the United States and Canada, led by the President of this august Senate, the delegation saw that, all things being equal, there was need for the establishment of more Consulates in the far off areas of San Francisco in California and Seattle in the District of Washington, all in the Pacific Coast and within a distance of two thousand to three thousand miles from Washington D.C. and/or New York. Such Consulates would not only help to publicise Nigeria but would serve the interest of the teeming thousands of Nigerians in these far off areas of the United States.

In Canada, the delegation discovered that with all the goodwill and friendliness that exist between that country and Nigeria, and while some smaller states in Africa have even established Embassies there, Nigeria had not even established a Consulate.

The United Nations is the only hope of international peace and world order and I praise our Government for its decision not to slacken its efforts in upholding the principles of the Organisation's Charter.

The vigilance, prowess and efficiency of the Police and Army have won world renown and any proposals aimed at strengthening their hands to further their security service in this

country must receive top priority. I say, Bravo! to the officers and the rank and file of the Nigeria Police and the Army.

As regards Government intention to continue to encourage expansion of internal and external trade, Government should endeavour to discourage reduction in produce prices, particularly those of palm oil and palm kernels unless such reduction is dictated absolutely by the trend of world market. Present low prices for palm produce tend to discourage production and have resulted in decrease in export of palm oil, for example, by about 28 per cent, and decrease in estimated revenue for the present financial year by about £206,000.

Telecommunications: Years ago Port Harcourt, as a bustling business town, was described as second only to Lagos in development and importance. That was long before Port Harcourt became an oil city. Port Harcourt's main Post Office buildings, built over 40 years ago, have ceased to inspire confidence in anyone much less to stand comparison with any branch post office in Lagos, and the question on everybody's lip over the years has been, "When is Government going to give Port Harcourt a post office building befitting her population, status and her business and commercial importance in the country?" The present main Post Office buildings are an eyesore, and the Government would do well to indicate when they are going to be replaced.

It is very relieving to note that the Posts and Telegraphs Department will, in 1963, introduce a new commercial policy and a commercial system of accounting. It is hoped that this new accounting policy will do away once and for all with the present objectionable method whereby people are charged telephone dues without disclosing in their bills the specific number of local or trunk telephone calls they have made. The people of this country have been groaning under this iniquitous system for years and it is hoped that the new system of accounting envisaged would restore the more factual method and be more businesslike in the issue of telephone bills.

Niger Delta Development Board: Although the name "Niger Delta Development Board" can be said to have been referred to in His Excellency's Speech only by implication, I would like to seize this opportunity to thank the Government for the publication of the first Annual Report of the Board's activity as at 31st

[SENATOR OBI]

March, 1962, with a Foreword from the Prime Minister. The Report was distributed during the August Session in 1962. From this informative Report, I now know that Yenagoa Province, Degema Province, and the Ogoni Division of Port Harcourt Province in Eastern Nigeria form part of the Delta Special Area which I represent in this honourable House, the remaining part being the Western Ijaw Division of the Delta Province in Western Nigeria.

It is gratifying to note that solid foundation has been laid for the commencement of development work in this Special Area, and that a total net requirement of £2,323,000 has been approved and included in the Federal Government Development Programme 1962-68 to cover both the capital and recurrent expenditures of the Board during that period, and I wish to express my humble appreciation and thanks for the efforts and interests the Prime Minister, Alhaji the Rt. hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, as the Minister responsible, has shown in the work of the Board despite the overwhelming demand made on his time by other multifarious State duties.

Recently, a magnificent Headquarters Office building of the Board has been completed in Port Harcourt, and with a batch of five technical experts soon to arrive, if they have not already arrived, from the United Kingdom, and with the possibility of the centre of operation of the Board being completely removed to Port Harcourt from Lagos, the Board desires to be granted executive powers, subject to necessary safeguards, to enable it push ahead with some aspects of the development programme and so escape the allegation of tardiness with which the Board is occasionally labelled by the uninformed. With the excellent type of gentlemen I know as members of that Board, I am certain that no confidence would be misplaced should Sir Abubakar decide to grant the request of the Board.

This takes me to the important question of road communications and transport in the Delta Special Area. I have noted with pleasure that in His Excellency's memorable Speech, the Government has disclosed its intention to initiate a substantial programme of road construction during the coming financial year. The question of connecting some areas of the Delta Special Area with the mainland of Eastern Nigeria by extending road spear-heads

from the latter into the Delta is a *desideratum* with the eventual possibility of establishing road transport between the two. Such road means of communication would not fail to be one of the quickest means of developing the Special Area, and a road link from any point in Ahoada Division to connect Degema could serve as a beginning. I strongly advocate.

Agriculture and Farm Settlement in the Special Area: During His Excellency the Governor-General's tour of the Degema and Yenagoa Provinces at the latter part of last year, His Excellency disclosed that a lot of fertile farm land is available in these areas capable of producing food and other agricultural requirements of the population of that area and beyond. With the agricultural specialist of the Board now available on the spot, the Government might consider the possibility of embarking on a scheme of farm settlement at the earliest possible opportunity in these areas in the wake of those recently established in parts of Eastern Nigeria by the Eastern Nigeria Government. Not only would such farm settlements provide an ocular demonstration of Government effort to develop the area, but they would also provide employment for any unskilled labour that may be available besides supplying food and agricultural requirements of the area and beyond. Such schemes which would take shorter periods to come to maturity could be undertaken side by side with long-term schemes.

I now desire to associate myself with those Senators who have spoken in praise of Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi's excellent performance as one time Administrator of Western Nigeria. I must confess that before he was appointed to that onerous responsibility, I did not know we had such a genius in him. In short, let me conclude by saying that in Dr Majekodunmi the people of Western Nigeria in particular and Nigeria in general have a son in whom the country can justly be proud, and I am confident that this august Senate will continue to produce such men who, by reason of their outstanding knowledge and ability, can combine their normal State duties with other Government assignments, temporary or permanent, in time of need.

I beg to support.

10.50 a.m.

Senator Malachias Bawa : It is with the greatest pleasure that I rise to support the Motion of Thanks for the Speech from the Throne delivered by His Excellency the Governor-General of the Federation of Nigeria, ably moved by Senator Lagunju in an eloquent way. No one will argue the statesmanship of our present Governor-General. He is well known as a father of the Nation throughout the African continent.

The Speech from the Throne mentioned the increase in the strength of the Police Force by raising two further squadrons of the Mobile Police Force and a new Police Division for the Federal Capital.

The Speech from the Throne also contains something about the Army, the Navy and the Air Force and progress plans of the Federal Government to speed up industrialisation all over the Federation.

In fact, our mineral industries should be nationalised. I suggest that the tin mining industry in the Plateau Province where I come from—Jos in the Northern Region—should be nationalised. My reason is that since the advent of the operation of tin mining in parts of Plateau Province, where several concerns like the Amalgamated Tin Ore of Nigeria and other private tin mining concerns in the surrounding areas operate, there has been no sign of developing the areas by the Tin Mining Company of Nigeria which is the biggest company in that area. I see no signs of improving the welfare of the natives of that area. People were to quit the land for mining purposes. After digging and seeing the mineral under the ground, Government automatically came to say that there must be some reclamations of land, so as to replace the original land so that the people of that area could get land on which to farm. In some cases, the owner of the land is given a compensation of £20 or £10! It should be borne in mind that after quitting the land he has to find himself somewhere else until such land has been reclaimed by the Government before the man can come back and acquire the land. That is the trouble we have. In this respect many people have had to leave their original land and go to townships or big towns to seek for job, and if they could not get the job they become irresponsible people despite all their families and so on,

Therefore, I am greatly concerned about this question of mining in the Plateau Province. The fact is that if our Government should think twice and know what they are gaining from the tin ore in the Plateau Province, Government should decide to nationalise the mines to enable the proceeds to be used to improve the welfare of the indigenous people who have that very particular land. But if Government in one way or another should turn back to ask the people of the area and the private miners to join together and buy shares from the big company, the poor people cannot get the money to buy the shares. If you ask someone to go and buy a share of 10s when he is looking for the same 10s to go and maintain himself, how can he be expected to find such money? The majority of the people are poor and there is no means for them to become rich. How can they decide to buy shares? With what? For these reasons, the alternative is that the Government has to nationalise tin ore in the Plateau Province and see that the profit therefrom is used in the best interests of the people in the area.

Furthermore, I should say that in Plateau we are totally neglected in the question of telegraphy. Before someone could dispatch a telegram, one has to travel at least 170 miles to the mail office to dispatch a telegram. In Panshin all efforts have been made for about five years now to get a post office, but without success yet. They brought some telecommunication equipment, but no arrangement whatever has been made to instal it. We suffer before we even get mails from Lagos. In Panshin Division it takes at least five to six days to get a letter, and we have only two mail days every week. At times the transport motor which carries the mails get damaged on the way. Throughout that week we cannot get any mails, no telephone, nothing whatever. We have been shouting on the Floor of this House for some years now, but up till the present day nothing has been done.

Telecommunication is a thing which is very urgently needed for easy communication with other places, especially for commercial purposes.

Also when you talk about police expansion I find that nothing is said about the other areas, but only about the Federal capital. In some places you could find that when something happens—in a place like Shendam 160 miles

[SENATOR M. BAWA]

from Jos—you have to send somebody with a motor cycle or car before the Superintendent of Police in charge of the Division can know about the trouble. We are properly cut off in communication system. I think our Minister is here—the Minister of State—he should find one way or the other to see the Minister of Communications. It is a serious matter that when something happens, whether a riot or anything else, somebody has to ride a motor cycle through 170, 160 miles to go and meet the Police and tell them.

The Government is embarking on building modern system of telecommunication in Lagos. In Lagos they have so many systems of telecommunication: automatic telephones, this and that. Yet in the rural areas, in the place where I come from, we have no means of booking trunk calls. If we really want to build a well developed Nigeria, we should not concentrate amenities to some specific places only. We should spread amenities so that everybody will enjoy them. We have the survey map of Nigeria and I think that this will help in knowing places for purposes of distributing amenities. We have been saying this each time we come here, yet nothing has been done. We should not be talking all the time if what we say will not be considered. We have been telling the Government the troubles we have in the rural areas. I hope that the Government will now heed our requests.

There are many things I have to say but I think the Budget debate is the appropriate time for them. However, I must say something about the proposed Parliament building. I would suggest to the Government that this proposed building should be dropped. The money meant for this building should be used for the development of the rural areas. There is no sense in many of us coming to Lagos, staying in air-conditioned houses and when the Senate adjourns we go back to our villages where we are cut off from the outside world. The people who sent us here did so in order that we might seek their welfare and fight to improve their standard of living. All of us who come here are not fools. Each and everyone of us has something to say, and all that we say are in the interest of our people. Therefore, I feel that something should be done immediately.

We have been talking quite often about the peace and unity of the country. We are all

peace-loving citizens. But that peace and unity will not be achieved unless all of us have at least the bare necessities of life. It is no use a minority section of the community living happily and enjoying themselves while the majority live in want and suffering. If a section of the community is discontented, how can we get that peace which we very much want in this country? Therefore, when we are enjoying ourselves in big cities we should not forget our rural areas.

Now, talking about the expansion of the Police, the Navy and the Air Force, one thing strikes my mind quite readily. Really it is very essential to increase the strength of our armed forces, but in doing so we should not aim at quantity alone and lose sight of quality. We want quality as well as quantity. We can only have this quality by satisfying the members of the forces. What will happen if somebody is placed on the security service of the state and if you ask him his salary he says £7 per month? How can he live well? How can he not yield easily to temptation? If somebody wants to do something which is against the security of the state and he bribes his way through with, say, £100, how can this temptation be resisted? Of course, the state will be sold and the man automatically becomes our master. Therefore, when the Government talks about security of the state the people who are engaged on that task should be taken good care of. The people should be satisfied. It will not be in the interest of state security if we have one thousand million police officers and ten million soldiers, and so on, who are not satisfied with their work. It is not quantity but quality that matters when it comes to the question of security of a state. If a security officer is liable to be bought over, then security is at stake. I was a police constable, so I am now speaking from experience. We cannot have someone who ties the belt on from morning till night to starve all the time. If such a person happens to be bribed with £20, of course he will receive it and do what he is asked to do. If a man is arrested for an offence and he offers bribe, he will be discharged and allowed to go.

Senator Dr the hon. E. A. Esin (Minister of State): Is that so?

Senator Bawa: It is so. And that is why I said that the condition of the military and

the police forces should be improved. The fact that they are provided with accommodation is not enough.

Now, may I go a step beyond the Speech from the Throne. At the moment we have this controversial issue of extradition of one of our chiefs who is now in England. Words have been exchanged here and there, both inside and outside Parliament. This issue boils down to what I was talking of earlier. This chief was able to leave Nigeria to Britain while he was supposed to be under detention. How did he do it? Who released him? Where was the Police? How did he cross the border?

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : But the Senator had spoken about the Police?

Senator Bawa : Yes, that is why I said that the condition of service in the forces should be improved. They should be paid well, otherwise we cannot get a loyal police force.

Senator Asemota : Did he escape because the police were not well paid?

Senator Bawa : Yes—

The President : Will Senator Bawa address me here and not Senator Asemota.

Senator Bawa : Thank you, Mr President. In fact that is what I feel. The chief was under detention. How did he manage to escape from Nigeria to Britain? We have many cases of this nature in this country. These are the things we should always have in mind when we talk of the security of our state. There is no use making laws which will not be obeyed.

Some Senators expressed the view that Nigeria should break off diplomatic relations with Britain. Although I might have been one of those who shared that view, but I am sorry to say now that this is not enough reason for taking such a step.

A Senator : Why?

Senator Bawa : I will tell the Senator the reason. Nigeria has many dealings with the British Government.

The President : The Senator has five more minutes.

Senator Bawa : Thank you, Mr President.

We still have our army now training in Sandhurst under the aid of the British Government. Also, some of our policemen are now training in the Scotland Yard. We are receiving all this help from Britain. I do not think it is wise for the Government to pursue this issue to this extent of breaking off diplomatic relations with Britain. The issue is grave of course, but not as grave as that.

The President : Order, order. I think we must break now for about fifteen minutes.

Sitting suspended : 11.13 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 11.30 a.m.

Senator M. A. Greene : I rise to support the Motion and to associate myself with the speeches of the previous speakers.

Nigeria should bless her stars for having the type of people at the head of the Federal Government. They are honest, broad-minded and God-fearing. They should enjoy our prayers and support.

All efforts should be made to arrest the growth of road accidents in this country. Loss of lives, properties, bodily injuries to families, damage to man power; these are all evils that are unpleasant to bear. Well-made roads and the education of drivers should be the rule of the day.

Much has been said about the condition of working class of this country. I should like to stress that the allowances paid to old age pensioners be raised a bit, by about 50 per cent so as to help all old age pensioners.

The civil service should develop and maintain a high sense of duty, and the public should be given sharp, immediate and adequate attention in public places such as the post office, bank and local authority offices. Waste of time and revenue should be discouraged.

Senator Chief Z. C. Obi : On a point of order. I think reading is against Standing Order 26 (1).

The President : Order, order. Reading is really against Standing Order 26 section (1). But I believe the Senator was refreshing his memory.

Senator Greene : As I was saying, waste of time and money should not be encouraged at all. Only the best is good for Nigeria and for the Government of this great country.

11.36. a.m.

Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu : Thank you very much. I beg to support.

A Senator : Is the Senator refreshing his memory ?

Chief Acholonu : Yes. I beg to support the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency the Governor-General of the Federation of Nigeria.

The Speech was delivered in his usual way, in his usual eloquence. The Speech from the Throne was very comprehensive, and the manner in which it was presented was highly commendable.

I think the Mover of the Motion, Senator Lagunju, has also to be congratulated on the way he has presented the Motion. I think also we have to congratulate the Prime Minister, the President of the Senate, and the entire members of the Cabinet, who have contributed to the efficient and smooth running of this Government. It is no exaggeration to say that Nigeria is blessed and is extremely lucky for having such a man, who was the first President of the Senate, and now the first indigenous son of Nigeria to be the Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Federation of Nigeria.

As you know, he is the right man in the right place, and not a round peg in a square hole. His foresight and personal magnanimity was not made by man, but by God, who made him hail from Onitsha in the Eastern Region, born in the Northern Region, and educated in the Federal capital of Lagos, in Yoruba land, just for the emancipation of Nigeria and Africa as a whole. We nicknamed him "Zik of Africa."

In the Speech, mention was made of telecommunications. Every year, during the presentation of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, Members have spoken about communications. But, what I do not know is how urgently the Members of the Cabinet and the appropriate Ministry are looking into it for the implementation of what they are presenting to us to debate. Senators know how seriously the Members of this House often take their observations on the various divisions and provinces on the question of telecommunications. But what I do not know is if there has been any Member here to

say thank you to the Federal Government for hearing our cries for installation of telephones or building of post offices? No one, to my knowledge.

For example, I have got a telephone in my house for almost eleven years but I have asked for withdrawal since December last because it is useless to me. Every morning I ask the Operator for a trunk call, say, to Onitsha I never get through, yet I have many people to speak to at Onitsha. This is most ridiculous. The Operator will continue to say 'Owerri give me Aba'. If later I ask what is being done to put me through, he will say: "Is that Igwe, Sir? I will ring you later". After sometime I will take up the telephone again and ask 'how'? He will say, 'I am still waiting for Aba' and then continue to say: "Aba give me Enugu". Naturally, when I am tired of all these, I am forced to leave the telephone alone without getting what I want. Even when I sometimes get Onitsha the line becomes faint and never hear a word. I never speak on the telephone even to Ihiala which is only 18 miles from Orlu because the Operator will be taking me from Owerri to Aba, from Aba to Enugu and so on.

The box there is the most unserviceable in the whole of the Federation. If you go there you will find people waiting in a small tiny house. The whole place is crowded that one can never go forward except sideways. If anybody is in doubt of what I am saying, let him visit the Post Office whenever he gets to Orlu.

A Senator : I testify.

Senator Chief Acholonu : Mr President, I pray the Ministry concerned to be more enthusiastic in the performance of its duties and try to see whether all these complaints are genuine or mere exaggeration.

One thing I cannot understand is that these, Ministers say they go to the Eastern Region to see places of interest. This is an indirect way of saying that they are going to see their families. They do not visit the real places of interest. The places of interest they should visit are places where these public service facilities are situated.

Senator E. A. Lagunju : On a point of order, the Senator is trying to impute motives

by mentioning that Ministers go to visit members of their families instead of visiting places of interest.

The President : Oh no, I do not think that is imputing motives. He is entitled to charge them here. (*Applause*).

Senator Chief Acholonu : I wish to tell Senator Lagunju that the Minister ought to be the father of all. They ought to see to our complaints and see how many houses are leaking so as to patch them, how many of the people need attention and also see to their welfare. Also, it is part of their duty to see that the lives of the ordinary citizen is safeguarded especially when it is remembered that these people are the taxpayers. Their interests and security must be the concern of our Ministers.

I am not quarrelling with the Ministers, no. It is only the case of a child crying so that his parents may give him food. He does not mean to abuse his parents. He only wants to be fed.

The President : This is the moment of interruption. Senator Chief Acholonu, on Monday, will be having thirty more minutes to speak. The Standing Orders enjoin me to interrupt the House at this hour.

Debate to be resumed—Monday, 1st April.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Senate do now adjourn—(Senator Dr Esin).

RESIGNATION OF THE EMIR OF KANO

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : I think we have come to a stage in this country to-day that we should consider ourselves very lucky indeed that we have got Ministers, Prime Minister, Premiers and people who are projecting Nigeria in many ways. I think we should also be very happy indeed that in the Regions too they are working in such a way that we should feel proud of their efforts.

We are having many visitors coming to this country. They do not only visit the Federal Capital; they go to the Provinces and I am sure that from their reports and from what we read about their visits they feel satisfied with everything they see in various places. I also feel very much indeed that our natural

rulers also have an important part to play in the set up of this country. I think Nigeria should also be proud that we have our various natural rulers who in the olden days are men of real importance, dignified personalities, men that ruled this country before the advent of the European civilisation and men who have wide powers to do things in the way which traditions allowed them.

Unfortunately, some of them have allowed themselves to degenerate to such a standard that what is happening to them to-day in this country does not make pleasant reading. I am referring to the Emir of Kano and what is happening in Kano to-day.

You could very well feel that you are in your own country and what happens in one Region can equally be taken that the other people will not really be happy about it. The Northerners, as we know them, are God-fearing and have very respectable traditions. There are people also who feel that things like what has happened in Kano should long have been exposed. Well, I do not know the circumstances surrounding it, but I am sure that if this sort of thing happened elsewhere the Sardauna of Sokoto, Sir Ahmadu Bello, would use his magnanimous mind to go into it. Because he is a man I have read a lot about—a man who does not derive happiness in the downfall of others, and who steps in when he finds that there is trouble between people—I am sure that if the honourable Sardauna will only be good enough to use his very good offices to step into this matter to keep it out of the public eyes, it will help a great deal to keep the respect and the tradition of the country intact.

A Senator : Point of information.

The President : Oh, no. It can only be a point of order when you think that he has done something wrong, or a point of explanation when he has misquoted what you said. Which point do you want to raise now?

A Senator : My point is that this Senator wants to know the facts. It is not only the duty of the Sardauna to intervene in the matter, but it is also the duty of the Senator to find or obtain the results of the Enquiry—(*Interruptions*).

The President : You are entirely out of order. You are now going to debate what he is saying. Will Senator Asemota please proceed.

Senator Asemota : Well, we in this House hear of the Sultan of Sokoto, the Shehu of Bornu, the Emir of Zaria, the Emir of Kano and several other Emirs. They are regarded as mighty potentates in their own areas, and it is a very sad thing indeed that what has happened to one of those potentates should be so publicized that it does not do credit to our natural rulers. Maybe it is politics that has interfered with it, but all that I am saying is that I am appealing to Sir Ahmadu Bello to view the matter with a very sympathetic attitude and, at least, keep the matter out of the public eyes.

The other point I would like to touch is the acceptance of foreign honours by our Governor-General. I have been saying that here times without number, but there seems to be what is called political Mosaic Law that forbids him from accepting foreign honours; but anyway we saw him on the 27th March when he came in in the uniform of a Field Marshal to open Parliament. If he is allowed to accept the knighthood, the stars and the decoration will certainly add more over and above what he put on then. I do not know who is responsible for precluding the Governor-General from accepting honours, but whoever is responsible should please relax its grip on him in that sense, and allow this man to accept a really befitting order of a knighthood. Since our Independence from what we have really achieved and the position we occupy in the public eyes and in the eyes of the world, we would have found out that Nigeria's Governor-General would have been made a Baron, and that could have been a great honour to this country. I do hope that whoever is responsible for advising His Excellency against accepting foreign honours should please relax his grip on him and allow this man to accept an honour which is befitting his dignity.

11.57 a.m.

Senator H. N. Udoh : My own point is very different from what the last speaker has spoken on. I am trying to remind the President to use all possible means of getting Senators who are not here this morning to be present on Monday morning, for it does not exhibit us honourably if we are found wanting. We are like permanently appointed members of a party and we should not be wanting where there is work. That is what I want to remind the President of.

The President : Thank you. On that point, I wish to inform the Senate that the Minister and I have had consultations, and he is going to send telephone calls and telegrams to everybody who has gone away to be here on Monday. We must really work for our pay. (*Applause*).

11.59 a.m.

Senator Chief R. A. Umoh : There is a point I wish to be clarified and that is: even though it was stated in black and white that except when the Parliament is meeting no Members has the right to stay in his flat except three days before the sitting of Parliament, I do not know whether it includes this time. Take, for example, Senators here might like to stay for some time and hear the debates from the lower House. Will the law allow it? Does it mean that Senators should not wait even though the lower House is in session? Is there any law against that?

Several Senators : No.

Senator Umoh : I do not know whether my point is clear.

The President : It is a very good point. The Minister has grasped your point.

Senator Umoh : Are we justified to stay in our flats, even though we have adjourned, if we want to know what is going on in the lower House without being told to pay extra rent as the rules specify?

The President : The Minister will answer that either to-day or some other day. Your point is well grasped.

Senator Abdul Salami Yusifu : If I may say something on that issue. In fact both the Senate and the Lower House have been meeting at certain times concurrently and sometimes the Senate adjourns while the lower House is on. Normally we used to stay and we are never asked to pay anything. Therefore, I do not think it is a matter which requires the Minister's attention at all.

Well, I support Senator Orizu in his statement the other day when he mentioned about the state of the Senate or the fact that Senators are not given adequate publicity, and so on. In fact, in my own opinion, it should be something that the Government should try to portray—the status of the Senators—by

having a group photograph which should be distributed to all the Regions within the Federation. I think it is rather unfortunate that Senators have to go and introduce themselves to people, and say, "I am a member of the Senate," even though the people will be doubting his integrity as to whether the man is actually a Senator or not. But if the portraits of the Members are distributed all over the Federation, then I think we will have less bother introducing ourselves to the public. Sometimes when I go into the Kingsway Stores and other prominent places I find the pictures of the members of the House of Lords who I think occupy the same status as the Senators, and I think it will not be out of reason that Senators should be treated equally in the same way.

The President : May I warn the Senators that when Senator Asemota stood to speak, he had given notice to both myself and the Minister. I keep on saying that it is not right to rise up here and raise a matter on Adjournment unless you have given the notice. I do not want us to be lazy. All you have to do is to take a pen and a piece of paper and write down your thoughts and pass it across here. Then we all know you are going to speak on something.

Senator T. Olamijulo : I am very sorry that Notice is necessary even if in the course of debate one finds that something has cropped up and one wants to make speech—

The President : Order, order ! If you want to reply to a point or you want to comment on a point for which Notice has been given, you are all right. But he has given two points. The point of the Emir of Kano and the point of honour for the Governor-General. If we confine ourselves to those we will be within the Standing Order. But if you go on talking about Senators not being publicised, about your houses not being all right, about whether you can keep your quarters, you are entirely out of order. But it is usual for me to give latitude because we are all old people here. (*Applause.*)

Senator Olamijulo : The last speaker spoke about publicity of Senators and that is the point that I want to speak on.

Several Senators : Not allowed.

Senator Olamijulo : I want to say that some Senators have spoken about Senators not being publicised sufficiently.

The President : You see a thing that is wrong *ab initio* cannot be right in the middle. The Senator who raised it was wrong. So you cannot talk on his own. You can only comment on what Senator Asemota has said.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Senate do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at one minute to twelve o'clock.

SENATE OF THE FEDERATION
OF NIGERIA

Monday, 1st April, 1963
The Senate met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

ORDER OF THE DAY

GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SPEECH (MOTION
FOR AN ADDRESS)

ADJOURNED DEBATE ON QUESTION (28TH MARCH)

Question again proposed, That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency, the Governor-General, as followeth:—

"Your Excellency,

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

The President: Senator Chief Acholonu, you have thirty minutes.

10.06 a.m.

Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu: Mr President, before I go on, I must, with your permission, congratulate the members of our Hansard Staff for their efficiency. But I was misquoted as regards the distance from Orlu to Ihiala. I said in my speech last Saturday that the distance from Orlu to Ihiala is twelve miles and from Orlu to Oguta eighteen miles. The distance from Orlu to Ihiala was given as eighteen miles. I would like that to be corrected.

When I was speaking last Saturday on Telecommunications I urged all our Ministers to be visiting the Provinces and some Divisions in the Regions and not regard Enugu, Kaduna and Ibadan as the only places of interest. They should be going to the rural areas where no industry whatsoever is established and where people are crying for amenities like post offices and good roads which they need badly. In some rural areas the inhabitants have no means of posting their letters. Our Ministers should visit these people and they will find that in all the welcome addresses the people present to them, they will ask for amenities. They want post offices and better roads. The establishment of post offices is a matter of concern to these people. The Federal Government as the father of the nation should hearken to the cry of these people.

I shall speak on the building of eight health centres in the Federal Territory of Lagos. That idea is welcome and commendable. It shows the foresight of the Minister of Health. Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi, I would like all the other Federal Ministers to emulate him. Senator Chief the hon. Majekodunmi is working for the progress of the Ministry. In this connection, I would like to speak, with the permission of the President, on the question of house rent in Lagos. I want to know what is really the intention of the Federal Government about rent control in Lagos. For example, four or five persons may be occupying houses in the same street. One man may be paying £4 for two rooms; another man may be paying £3-10s 0d for two rooms; another may be paying £5 and another £6. Sometimes somebody pays £6 for one room while another pays £4 for two rooms. The reason for this is that the Federal Government has not legislated against high rent in Lagos. The responsibility for this lies with the Federal Government.

The same thing applies to the taxi fares in Lagos. For instance a taxi driver may charge 5s to take a man to Surulere; another taxi driver may charge 10s for the same distance; and yet another may charge 2s-6d. The reason is that there is no fixed rate. The Federal Government must also attend to this. If there is a fixed rate, nobody will be cheated. The Federal Government should not let the poor people suffer.

Mr President, I am very serious about this matter and I want the Federal Minister of Health to see that the appropriate Minister does something about rent control in Lagos without delay. This is the talk of the town now in Lagos. Many people are living very far away from Lagos because they cannot afford to pay high rent. Something should be done immediately.

I now come to the question of Coal. I would not like the Government to substitute diesel oil for coal. Alternative uses of coal should be found. We have many workers in the coal mines and if the coal mines are closed, the workers will be dismissed. We have now been told that people with Standard Six pass will not be recruited to the Police Force but people with Cambridge or the G.C.E. Some Regions are now modifying their system of education and untrained teachers will be

sacked. By untrained teachers I mean people with Standard Six pass. Some of them have been told to wait for further announcement. When some of the workers in the coal mines are dismissed and the untrained teachers retrenched, the number of unemployed people in Nigeria will be on the increase. The Federal Government as the father of the nation should do something to help these unemployed people.

With these few remarks, Mr President, Sir, I beg to support.

10.20 a.m.

Senator Hassan Rafindadi: It is with utmost joy and gratification that I join previous speakers in thanking His Excellency for his Speech from the Throne and the Federal Government for their ceaseless effort to solve the present economic and social problems of our country.

Nigeria is indeed lucky to have a quality of leadership second to none in the whole of renascent Africa and we have every right to be proud of these leaders whose qualities have won for them world wide renown and for Nigeria a position of international repute.

The Speech is comprehensive as it tried to cover all aspects of the activities of the Government. Particular regard was given to Foreign Affairs, and quite rightly, African Affairs was given topmost priority. Ratification of the Charter of the Inter-African and Malagasy Organisation shows the keen interest and desire of the Federal Government to bring about unity co-operation and solidarity among all independent nations of Africa. It is this alone that will ensure our sovereignty and a better life for all our people. This is a fitting tribute to the Federal Government and in particular, to the persons of the Governor-General and the Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar, who have now started to see the fruits of their life-long efforts. The problems of Africa are only known by Africans and solutions to these problems can only be found when the leaders of Africa get together in unity and understanding. It is, however, gratifying to note that many of the African leaders appreciate this, and their combined efforts will redeem the name of Africa and the personality of the African.

The Charter of the Inter-African and Malagasy Organisation is the only guarantee of the achievement of this cardinal objective.

The next very important point touched by His Excellency is the question of State security. The Federal Government quite rightly realised that they cannot adequately fulfil their obligation both at home and abroad in the international sphere without ensuring complete security at home. The unconstitutional seizure of power in some countries and subversive activities in others are eloquent testimony that the Government has to be alert and vigilant. This is the main safeguard against irresponsible elements both at home and abroad. Therefore, any security measures deemed appropriate to be taken are timely and in order. It will not only safeguard the Government but will also inspire confidence in the friendly African States that look forward to Nigeria for leadership. It is on account of this that proposals put forward with regard to the Police and other services should have our wholehearted support.

The security of our country is also threatened by some other factors, in this case physical. I refer to the threat of the sea from the South and the threat of the Sahara Desert from the North. With regard to the encroachment of the sea, the steps now being taken are very welcomed. I would, however, like to remind the Government that an equally serious situation is the encroachment of the Sahara Desert, all along the Northern borders of our country, which threatens to devastate the great groundnut region that lies within it. This should be seriously considered and ways and means found to check this danger that will affect one of our primary products. Perhaps afforestation and reclamation schemes may be the answer. However, I leave it to the Government experts to advise on the best method.

The problem of school leavers is my next point. This problem is fast getting into serious stride and it is high time something was done. Something must be done at once. It is a problem that affects every part of the Federation especially now that the development of primary education is getting into full gear. The formation of a National Man Power Board to advise on the employment of school leavers may perhaps give only partial solution to the problem. It is a well-known fact that institutions of post primary and vocational education are grossly inadequate to cater for the pressing needs of these school leavers.

[SENATOR RAFINDADI]

The Six-Year Development Plan relies for its execution on the supply of all grades of manpower that the country can possibly produce. Proper and careful planning is needed to ensure that the manpower potential is utilised to the best advantage and waste of manpower avoided—a waste that will one day be a thorn in the flesh of the Government. Adequate measures must be taken to control the situation now before it explodes.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

10.29 a.m.

Senator T. Olamijulo : I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to his Excellency the Governor-General for his Speech from Throne. The Mover of the Motion, Senator Lagunju did the job ably and satisfactorily. With the following few remarks, I would like to support.

The aim of our Government is to secure international peace and world order in collaboration with the other member states of the United Nations. In pursuance of this our aim, we should see to it that all prejudices and partial affections are ruled out. Peace cannot be expected to reign supreme where partiality abides and people are denied their rights. It is also true that neither wishful thinking nor playing to the gallery could be expected to solve our problems—

Senator Chief R. A. Umoh : On a point of order, the senator appears to be reading his speech.

The President : I think the Senator was only refreshing his memory.

Senator Olamijulo : Thank you, Sir. As I was saying, the enjoyment of worldly things are doomed for ever when peace and order are absent.

Now, will the raising of two further squadrons of Police Mobile Force bring the desired stability in Nigeria when recent happenings in the Federation point to dissatisfaction among the inhabitants? Will increased police personnel solve the problem? Certain Senators lauded the venture while a few others, like Senators Beyioku and Ogundipe sounded notes of warning on the psychological effect the accumulation of police force indiscriminately was bound to bring. I, therefore, join these peace-loving Senators to decry the line of approach that Government has taken to face

the problems of recent happenings, especially those within Nigeria.

The Governor-General, the Prime Minister, the Governors of all the Regions, Ministers and their associates in the whole Federation of Nigeria who are all at the moment enjoying life abundantly should rely less on force and more on love from the people in order that we might enjoy peace and order in and out of Nigeria.

Speaking about the engagement of more policemen if I may ask, without any ulterior motive, should men be engaged and paid regularly without efforts to justify the amount of money spent on them? The question now arises as to how such men are going to make good the money so expended on them, and I strongly appeal to the Government to employ only as a matter of necessity the best type of men for the jobs. It should also be borne in mind that anything which force brought into existence can only exist by force.

I now come to the training of prisoners. Anyone who considers the various ways by which people become prisoners will agree that those lamentable circumstances are eradicated when those prisoners are taught certain crafts. Also classification and segregation will make fewer people go to prison if carefully done.

Censorship of films which appear on our theatres and television is overdue. Money paid by our Government to give wrong education to our people amounts to a waste. It will continue to be a waste until films are very well censored. Television sets installed in big town halls for viewers at moderate charges are capable of educating youngsters from average families besides providing the Government with some money. This is necessary because not many of our homes are financially strong to buy television sets.

The opening of Crown Counsel offices at Calabar and Port Harcourt as a preventive measure against smuggling is a move in the right direction if backed up with honest intentions. Rendering assistance to any African country which may request our assistance is a move in the right direction because love begets love and hatred begets hatred.

Trade Unions : It is rather very essential for the Government to find out which sections

of our trade unions seek the prosperity of Nigeria and which seek its downfall. The activities of some trade unions, I must say, are based on the 'give and take' principle whilst others are solely based on the principle of "take" and "take" alone. To encourage workers to give their best services they should be given commensurate pay. So they should be encouraged in every way possible by the Government.

The President: Order, order. If the Senator overdoes it I would be obliged to call him to order. Order 26 (1) says:

"A Member 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."

But I am prepared to stretch it to mean that the Senator is refreshing his memory.

Senator Olamijulo: People are at times afraid to speak the truth for fear of criticism. But when we realise that ever before the advent of Europeans we in this country had our own forms of sports, but the fact is that in the past everything belonging to Africans was relegated to the background and all those belonging to Europeans were whole-heartedly supported without any real examination. Is it not good that we now look forward to see whether sports like—

A Senator: Wrestling?

Senator Olamijulo: No, not wrestling. Sports like boxing should be discouraged. What good can we get from boxing? It is time we thought more seriously about things that are Nigerian. While we accept those that are European in outlook we should take only those that are good and forsake those that are bad. We should try to encourage all those that are African which were in the past relegated to the background. It is high time we thought about things that are African and pursue them with all our efforts so as to encourage them. (*Hear, hear*).

The scheme of securing new markets for our products will give the Government of the day great praise and posterity will remember and extol the government, if not on paper, in actual fact.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

9.42 a.m.

Senator H. N. Udoh: It is now the custom that one must say something in connection with the Governor-General's Speech from the Throne. Otherwise, other speakers have already covered all ground. But with such a voluminous document the ground will not be easily covered even if every Member speaks on the Speech from the Throne for a whole month.

In supporting the Message from the Throne, I have one or two observations to make. Firstly, cinematograph. Careful observers in both the rural areas and townships find that most of the troubles we have in the community emanate from what the young generation observes in pictures. We read from the paper every now and then how the youths use explosives in breaking through government treasury and other establishments where money is kept. These are the outcome of visits to cinemas. And not only that, some of us from the rural areas do observe certain things with these young men who go about with lorries or landrovers selling medicine—those who call themselves advertisers. Their performances tend to bring disgrace and disrepute to us Africans and Nigerians in particular. I, personally, fail to see what the Cinematograph Board members are doing. Do they censor the things at all? When we were little ones we went to pictures to see certain stories or religious lessons illustrated. I think we have a Bill coming before us about Cinematograph. The members of that Board should be advised if they do not know of things that will help us. Certain behaviours even up to the extent of certain types of dress, certain things that should not be exposed, are really exposed.

Now, the Police Force: This is very very important. I think all speakers here touched this vital point contained in the Address from the Throne. I remember last time or last year we debated the importance of the Police Force which is one of the principal items of our security. The Governor-General mentioned that two more squadrons will be engaged. We have the man-power quite alright, but the type of people that will be required to give us that service is another very difficult point and needs very careful consideration.

Many of us commented on the issue of driving licences and said that they are not given by merit, rather they are purchased by the highest bidder. If this is applied in our

[SENATOR UDOH]

security, where do we stand? Very many things have been happening in the country to-day: we find that many policemen during night duties have lost their lives. Such took place at Onitsha where a policeman was shot, and even near us here at Ibadan. If the criminals know that the policemen on duty at night particularly are well armed, they will think twice before they open fire. The Government should think over this very seriously. Also you find that those who obtain arms in the country through the right channels are by far less than those who obtain theirs illegally for the purpose of attacking people's property both at night and day. These things should be carefully tightened for the safety and security of the people.

In very many places policemen complain of quarters. In some rural areas we find that certain policemen and their wives have no quarters. When you want a very good service from a person, to a certain extent, take good care of him; help him and then he himself will in return and appreciation do that which you require of him. The quarters provided for them are inadequate.

I come now to another very heart-aching point which is in every lip. I think a Senator spoke on this item before and when he did he made everybody here rocked with laughter. This is in connection with telecommunications. One will find that the complaint everywhere, in the Federal capital as well as in the Regional headquarters, is that when one sends a telegram which demands urgency, probably for another person to await him at such and such a time and to procure an accommodation for him, that person arrives at his destination long before the telegram. This is not the only annoying thing. We also experience this delay on letters. But the most annoying thing is that one buys trouble with one's money! When one gets a telephone installed in one's house one does not enjoy it. I need not go into details here. When one takes up the receiver of a telephone to book a call, the answer one gets from the operator, if an answer comes at all, is, "Sorry, the line is bad". When one takes up the matter with the Minister, the Minister will say, "Oh, we shall look into it. We shall be improving it". Nobody knows when the improvement will be made. Since October last year I have been paying £4 every quarter

without enjoying anything, and so are many others who are in the same boat with me.

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : It is even cheap in the East. It is £5 in the West.

Senator Udoh : Yes, the Senator is near the Federal Capital—Benin City for that matter. He can pay £10.

This is the Governor-General's statement on this particular issue, if you, Mr President, permit me to read it out :

"My Government will continue the preparation of a comprehensive national telecommunications plan for Nigeria. The number of trunk telephone circuits will be increased, and a new type of switching gear will be introduced, with advanced common control mechanism, which will best meet the country's requirements for a national subscriber trunk dialling system".

Yes, there always "will be" but nobody knows "when it will be". The Minister should be called upon to read and digest properly this particular part of the Governor-General's Speech from the Throne because we are suffering very much.

I now come to one, and perhaps the last point, and that is in connection with sports. Although the Minister in charge of this is making some efforts to improve every aspect of sports, but he should do more than he is doing now. Our players in various fields of sports should be encouraged and given all support. Well, I am referring to what happened recently in Ghana. We Nigerians are lovers of peace and those whom we are trying to love and extend our right hands of fellowship to interpret our gesture to mean cowardice, which it is not. I remember that the Governor-General in those early days said that we are elephants and that elephants are not easily infuriated. But once they are angry, they are in the real sense of it. The treatment we Nigerians receive from Ghana, such a small country, because of our love for them and because we are out for the unity of African States, is most discouraging. If it were an individual affair, I would suggest that we leave Ghana alone and let us see if we will not live without them. If one looks carefully into their treatment towards us one will see that it does not befit our position. Therefore, the Minister in charge of sports should make better arrangements in this line.

Many Senators have spoken on my next point, and what I am trying to say now is a sort of emphasis on the issue. This is in connection with Chief Enahoro who is now in Britain. I am supporting the view that we should demand an apology, as a Senator had said here before, from the British Prime Minister for the way the British Government asked us to give them an assurance on a case which is not yet in court. If the laws which they taught us how to make and how to interpret can give one an opportunity or a chance to influence a case when it has not yet been taken to court, then we have not learnt that. And if the British prefer to take Enahoro and grant him the political asylum which he is demanding, and forgo Nigeria, that is not bad. I do not think we lose anything by that. But this demand for an assurance from the British Government is indeed a very annoying affair in the minds of any true Nigerian. I do not think the British Government really realises the position of Nigeria to-day. Probably they are still thinking that we are still what we used to be to them.

Now, perhaps it must have been an oversight on the part of the Governor-General or perhaps the Minister in charge that no mention was made of a very important point which had been mentioned some time ago about the paper industry. If one looks around very carefully and sees the amount of paper the Governments of the Federation are using and what they are spending on them, one will be alarmed. If we can float a paper industry in this country, I think our economy will be benefited. This is a very important item and I think the Governments should endeavour to see that we float a paper industry in this country.

Mr President, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Motion of Thanks. I beg to support.

11.59 a.m.

Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu : Thank you, Mr President, for granting me the indulgence to say a few words on this Motion.

I rise to associate myself with the speeches of the Senators who spoke before me and who have spoken at length on this Motion. I will be very brief and I will give the headings of the few things I want to speak upon as follows : (1) The Nigeria Police Force ; (2) The Military Forces ; (3) Medical Services ; (4) Award of

Scholarships to Lagos citizens (5) Judicial and Legal Departments ; (6) Highways and Bridges, and (7) Sports.

I will now start with the Police Force. It is a very nice thing that was said by the Governor-General in connection with the Police Force, but we must look carefully into it and perhaps give them some word of advice in order to keep that department worthy of its name.

It is one thing to give an advice, but it is another thing to look into it. What is happening to-day in Nigeria shows that there is nobody else who can take care of the whole situation other than the Police. Every time we see what goes on in our streets. We see motorists and road users trying to overtake one another while a policeman will be looking at them without saying a word until an accident occurs. Instead of halting the move from the start, they prefer to wait until something happens, and when this is the case, they will begin to make all amount of noise.

It is one thing to make a law and quite another thing to see that it is being carried out successfully. Therefore, I wish that our Police Force will try, now that efforts are being made to improve their condition, to look more into their duties.

The Military Force. I am happy we are now independent. The safety of the people, the safety of any nation, whether or not they are being invaded, lies in the strength of its military forces, either in the air, or in the sea, or on land. I feel that the time has come when a new curriculum should be drawn up for our secondary schools and universities for the military training of our boys.

You will, no doubt, agree with me that the forces we have to-day have undergone training for a number of years before, and we should not wait until it becomes necessary to introduce compulsory conscription before we start to know that we must give our young boys a sort of military training.

The time has come now for us to stand on our own, and how can we stand on our own if we are not reinforced, if we are not well built up ? I am appealing, through the President and the Members of this House, to the Minister concerned that military training be included in our school curriculum.

[SENATOR CHIEF HUNPONU-WUSU]

During the Second World War, we all read, and some of us knew how people were being conscripted—compulsory conscription—from our neighbouring state, Dahomey. The whole place was almost deserted because nobody liked to go to war. Had it been that elementary training was given, as I am asking now that our boys in schools be given, nobody would have run away. In the school the preliminary military strategy will be taught and boys will know how to run, how to lie down, how to carry this and that, and all sorts of things. It is really necessary and that is what I want this House to take into consideration. We are fathers and we should be able to advise our children on whatever we think should be in their best interests in the near future.

Now, I must congratulate our Minister of Health on the able manner in which he has demonstrated to us and to the whole Nigeria what he is capable of doing.

I am happy indeed that in this House last year, I invited the attention of the President to grant the Senator some indulgence and make it possible for some of them to go round some of our departments and see for themselves what is going on. I said it was after this that it would be easier for us to know what we are doing here and why, and how best to do them. Fortunately, our President gave us some assignment. A few of us went round, and we started with the General Hospital. Those who went with me last year will all agree that we are happy that one of our specialists, Dr. Awoliyi, who attended to us and who conducted us round then, is here to-day with us.

We all saw what was going on, that inadequacy of materials is seriously holding them back, even though they are trying and working very hard. They have not got the tools, no materials, no buildings, and from the outlook of it one wonders how they are able to cope with the teaming hundreds of people who besiege the hospital everyday. How on earth do we expect them to cope with it? The other day, here, some people were condemning the doctors. They said the doctors do not want to work, they only want money, they are not interested in saving lives, they are this and they are that. When a doctor is assigned to attend to about 40,000 people you want to be examined properly and I want

to be examined properly too, how do you expect him to satisfy each and every one of us? Is he going to do it by magic?

Several Senators : One by one.

Senator Chief Hunponu-Wusu : You work it out yourselves. How many diagnoses a day, and you say "one by one".

I do sincerely congratulate the Minister of Health on the expansion he is making and I wish such a thing could be done in all the Ministries, so that people who are really qualified in any one profession should be the Ministers in charge of such Ministries.

Now over to some other important point. I think the time has come when this House should consider the question of dividing the seats here. It is no use for us to come here and say all we are saying while there is no Minister here who will take note of what we say. I know Senator Dr. Majekodunmi, the Minister of Health, and Senator Dr. Esin, Minister of State, are the mouth-piece of these people, but who can tell me—

The President : Order! I think the time has come in this House when we must get this clear. We should not forget that the Ministers who are Senators are here. The Ministers who are not here are not members of this House. They owe it as a duty to be in their own House. Therefore, I do not want us to regard it as a slight on the Senate that they are not here. They owe it as a duty, first and foremost, to be in their own House. Our own Ministers, who are Members of this House are here, except Senator Nuhu Bamali who is away to Cairo. So there is no slight at all. When the time comes for us to go through the Estimates, and the other House is not in session, then, of course, we will require those Ministers to come here.

Senator Chief Hunponu-Wusu : Thank you very much, Mr President, for this explanation. I am not asking them to be here at the same time. What I am saying is, I think it is a matter of opinion, that I wonder whether it should not be necessary that the Senate should allow the House of Parliament to sit completely first, so that we will be able to—

The President : Do you mean the House of Representatives? After all, this is also a House of Parliament. (*Hear, hear.*)

Senator Chief Hunponu-Wusu : Yes, Sir, I mean the House of Representatives. I mean they should sit and complete their work, and then the House of Senate should follow, say, a month or three weeks after.

Several Senators : No ! No ! What will we be doing then ?

Senator Chief Hunponu-Wusu : I said it is a matter of opinion, and I think I am entitled to my opinion. (*Hear, hear*) I do not consider it a slur on our part. I know we have got our capable Ministers who are here for us, but we feel that what we have been saying since last week is going to be read ; after all they have got their *Hansard* to read. I am appealing, through the President, for the Upper House to see what can be done about this.

Judiciary : It is indeed a very great honour to Nigeria to see a son of the soil, a Nigerian, being so lifted as Dr Udoma has been to go and take over and lead such an important arm of a nation, a sister African country, as the judiciary. It is a pride which all of us enjoy, and I wish more grease to our elbow.

Now, I move over to scholarship awards. I appeal, through the President, to the people concerned that Lagos citizens should be considered in the question of scholarship awards. Sometime last year, the Deputy President of this House stated how Lagos is being cheated or how Lagos is being neglected—and I use the language 'neglected' to some extent—when the question of scholarship awards arises. They are usually asked to go to their places of birth in order to gain scholarships, and that is Lagos.

In Lagos now, very few citizens do get these scholarships. I am sure Senator Chief Beyioku said it in this House, as well as the Deputy President, so I am appealing, through the President and the Members of this House, to the people concerned in this matter to consider it seriously. We cannot leave Lagos to go to Port Harcourt, or Kaduna, or Ibadan, or Zaria, to ask for scholarship awards. They say an applicant must go to his place of birth. We are not here to play politics. It is an eye-sore for people born in Lagos to go to Kaduna or Onitsha or Ibadan or Abeokuta to gain scholarships.

We are here in Nigeria and we talk of one Nigeria. We also speak of industrialising the country. We see industries being opened up in the North, in the West, in the East.

Is it a good thing that duty should be paid on raw materials transported from the East to the North for use in the industry in the North ? Should the West pay duty on materials coming to the West from the North or East ?

I will give an example. Textile industries are being set up all over the Regions. It has come to my knowledge that duty of ten *per cent* is being paid on raw materials like cotton before they are railed from the North to the West—

A Senator : On a point of explanation I would say that this place is becoming an oven. I see that all Senators are using fans. It appears that the airconditioner is not working at all. I wonder if the President could help us.

The President : You are entirely out of order. This is irrelevant to what Senator Hunponu-Wusu was saying. If I may help you, we instructed the Clerk last week to see the Government that the airconditioner here is now too old. It has been installed since 1952.

Senator Chief Hunponu-Wusu : Thank you, Mr President. The man who is standing does not feel the heat, I cannot understand why the man who is sitting should be complaining about the heat.

Coming back to the point I was making, I urge the Government to investigate the situation whereby a duty of ten *per cent* has to be paid before raw materials could be transported from the East to the West or from the North to the East. If we are in the same Nigeria and we are all Nigerians, I do not know why the North should pay duty to the East for buying coal or the West pay duty for buying cotton from the North. Where are we going ? Perhaps the Minister of Commerce and Industry will be able to explain.

It is almost the same thing as if we are importing cotton from England or Norway or Sweden. We pay duty on it here and we say

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we are in the same Nigeria. If this happens the price of the textile that is produced here will necessarily rise.

If coal, for instance, is to be railed to the North and we ask the Northerners to pay duty on it, are we helping Nigeria?

A Senator : What about the cows?

Senator Hunponu-Wusu : And the cows. The Government should really look into this state of affairs in order to help our industries. otherwise this practice will paralyse our plans to establish industries because as everyone knows raw materials are not usually found in the Region having the industry : they have to be transported from the sister Regions. If we have to pay duties, it will just be like the one imported from England or elsewhere. What is the use of establishing an industry under these conditions when we are within the same Nigeria? I think this matter needs looking into as soon as possible, now that we are all craving for more industries.

I now come to the question of sports. In short, it is a very good thing that we should support sports but I am personally against throwing away £65,000 at this time. We are a very small nation and I, as a businessman, cannot support it. It is too early for us to do this kind of thing. We are crying now that there is no money anywhere. Why can we not invest that £65,000 in another new industry? If we can get £15,000 from each of the Regions and £20,000 from the Federal Government, making a total of £65,000, let us establish an industry somewhere and not throw the money away. God forbid ! But what is the guarantee that during the fight one of them will not die on the spot? Are we voting money for them to kill each other?

I do not support those who say that it is essential to stage this fight here in Nigeria. We cannot afford to lose £65,000 on sports while we have all our school leavers roaming the streets. People are eager for jobs. We cannot establish industries, but we can afford to guarantee £65,000 for a fight in Nigeria. I am opposed to this, Mr President.

I now come to highways and bridges. During my maiden speech in this House I asked our then President, now the Governor-General, to look into the necessity for a second bridge in Lagos. During the last international trade

fair, we all saw a sketch showing that a second bridge has been drawn up. We were further told that a sum of £6 million has been given to the Nigerian Government by the Federal Republic of Germany for the construction of the second bridge. I urge the Government to look into this and start working on it immediately.

It is always the Government's policy to say we are working on it. Take the Benin-Shagamu road. Since 1960 we have been on it and perhaps within the next two to three years the road will be completed. A similar situation is now arising over the second bridge to link Lagos Island with the Mainland. If you go and see the congestion at Apapa and Surulere to-day you will sympathise with the people who come to work from there. People at Ikoyi do not feel it because they do not go that way.

I am appealing through the President to the Minister concerned that this second bridge for Lagos is a necessity. There is always a bottleneck at Iddo.

I support the Motion.

11.18 a.m.

Senator Abdul Salami Yusifu : I would like to contribute my quota to the debate on the Speech from the Throne and in doing so, I would like to congratulate His Excellency the Governor-General for his ability.

I shall not belabour this subject, nevertheless, I whole-heartedly support the tribute paid to His Excellency by the Senators who have spoken before me for his enviable speech. The Governor-General's Speech is second to none.

As we are all aware, His Excellency declared his Government's intention to ratify the Charter of Inter-African and Malagasy Organisation which was signed here in Lagos last December by the accredited representatives of the member states. The White Paper in which the text of the Charter is annexed, he said, will be placed before us in the course of the present Session. I say this is indeed a very wise idea and will surely serve the divergent sectors to end any existing ideological differences among the member states and remove all forms of colonial influence in Africa.

While I do not wish to expatiate on other subjects in detail, I shall give my comments on them as briefly as possible.

In his Speech His Excellency mentioned the intention to increase the strength of the Police Force to cater for the Government's growing commitment throughout the Federation by raising two further squadrons of the Police Mobile Force, and the creation of a new Police Division for the Federal capital. This is another step forward in our internal security measures, but while the Government is aiming at these proposals it must not forget to see that proper discipline and efficiency prevail within the rank and file of the Force.

Many Senators will agree with me that policemen are hostile to the public, and some of them have no regard for responsible citizens. Some of them, especially in the districts, regard themselves as a terror and not as friends to the public. However, I shall not dilate on this subject until we come to the appropriate Head.

Another important issue is the welfare and training of prisoners so that they may return to society better equipped, mentally and physically, to take their rightful place in the community. This is a very good plan if we can achieve it. Be that as it may I suggest that Government should also try to standardise the cell. There should be separate cells for people convicted of criminal offences and those convicted of civil offences. People convicted of civil offences should have less severe treatment than those convicted of criminal offences.

I wish to stress that I see no sense in the practice whereby people who are convicted for stealing are given the option of fine in the Courts. I do not see any sense in it, because if the criminal had money there would be no need for him to steal. Oftentimes people who are charged for embezzling money are given an option of fine instead of sending them to prison. I repeat that there is no sense in asking someone who has embezzled money to pay a fine because if he had enough money there would be no need for him to embezzle. We can only put him to prison and acquire his property, if he has any. I think this is the right method the Government should advise the Judiciary to adopt.

The President : Order. You cannot say that. I suppose we were charging Mr Macmillan for asking the Prime Minister to tell the court not to inflict a death sentence.

You are saying the same thing. The executive cannot influence the Judiciary.

Senator Yusifu : Mention was made in His Excellency's Speech of the great importance the Government attaches to the expansion of medical facilities by building more health centres in Lagos. It is all right, of course, but the Government should not concentrate attention on building and equipping hospitals. It should also realise that the salaries of the staff, doctors, nurses, and so on, are not commensurate with the amount of work they perform.

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku : On a point of Order, the air-conditioning plant is not working.

The President : I have answered this before. In fact I instructed the Clerk on Saturday to see the Government to put a new air-conditioner. This is as old as the building. It was installed in 1952. It is too old.

Senator Ogundipe : It is not really a point of order. The inconvenience is so great that before we resume our sitting next time we want some improvement because health is wealth. We are really old men.

The President : Do not let us make a debate of this. I have told you what I have done.

Senator Yusifu : I said that the salaries of the staff are not commensurate with the amount of work they put in. Therefore, immediate steps should be taken by the Government to ameliorate the exploitation of the staff by paying special allowances to them till such time as the Government is able to get trained and more experienced staff. I am saying this because I have noticed this state of affairs among the rank and file of the staff. If you go to any of the hospitals within the Federation you will find a doctor alone assigned to carry out the treatment of about two or three hundred cases in one day. While he may be able to cope with it during the day, the same thing occurs at night. He will have no rest because of cases of emergency. He will be awakened to come to attend emergency cases and having used his energy so much during the day he sometimes feel very reluctant to go out immediately. It may be he is trying to revise some of his lessons. After some time he may decide to attend to the call and probably he is a bit late, then the public will cry and say all sorts of

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nonsense about the doctor. But then is it that doctor's fault? I think it is the fault of the Government which has failed to get adequate staff to do the work.

The same time applies to nurses. Nurses on night duty work for six or eight hours at a time, as the case may be. A nurse alone cannot cope with so many urgent cases. Some cases need strict observation and some require four-hourly treatment. I think what the Government should do is either to get more staff or increase the salaries of those staff until such time as the Government is able to provide more trained staff.

I come now to the question of what is usually described as Mission hospitals. I think these hospitals are deplorable. I have one in my town and it is obvious that they cannot cope with the demands of the people. The hospitals are not well equipped, the staff are over-worked—

The President : Order. As soon as you start talking about the hospital in your own town you are out of order—it then becomes a regional subject, it is not Federal.

Senator Yusifu : I was just trying to give an example. I do not confine my remarks to the hospital in my home town. The same thing happens in the Mission hospitals in Ibadan. It is the same all over the Federation. I therefore appeal to the Federal Government to look into the matter by urging all the Regional Governments to take over these hospitals by way of aiding them financially.

I come to the question of social services. Many Senators have spoken about the Cinematograph, the Bill for which is coming before the Parliament to rectify the present situation. In fact many Senators have spoken at length about cinematography and some complained that the films which are shown are not progressive and are not good for the public of this country. Of course everyone has his own taste and I would not associate myself with criticism of the films which we see at present.

If we are to abolish the films which we have to-day, about fifty *per cent* of film goers may not be attending the cinema shows again. I will be one of them. The country is advancing and we must advance in everything. We have many types of shows. We have social

shows and military shows. The ones that should be stopped are those that teach our people how to steal. That is what we must press upon; not the other types of film that are being shown. Girls go to the films to learn how to get married and how to go about other social matters. Men too enjoy such films. I do not want to slight some Senators, but I think we all enjoy the films; at least most of us do. Therefore, in restricting the type of films which should be shown we must not completely condemn all social films.

I now come to the question of industry. When the Government is talking about industry or economy, it should not forget private enterprise. For instance, in this country if a man has £500 to £1,000, he has nowhere to invest this money. I think such a figure is enough to establish a business and the only way in which success can be achieved is for Government to have interest in private enterprise. The foreign banks do not seem to co-operate with indigenous traders. When they go to foreign banks for overdraft in order to be able to cope with their business even though that business is going on well, the banks reject their request. I think that is not fair. After all they come here to get our money. On getting that money they too must be able to help the indigenous traders by way of overdraft. Short-term loan should be abandoned and long-term loan should be allowed, otherwise the indigenous traders or enterprisers will suffer. Syrians and other foreign traders come into this country with very little money but in a year or two, they go very far. So I want the Federal and the Regional Governments to look into this and help our indigenous traders by giving them loans.

I still have some points, but I have not arranged them—

The President : You do not have to. Only remember that some of these things will come back again under the various Bills and then you will have nothing to say.

Senator Yusifu : I agree with you, Mr President. I now decide to wind up until such a time when we shall come to the appropriate Heads.

With these few remarks, Mr President, I support the Speech from the Throne.

11.38 a.m.

Senator Chief Ezeogo Ugwuocha : Mr President, I rise to support the Motion for an humble Address to His Excellency the Governor-General for the Speech from the Throne. In doing so I have but few observations to make. I am very grateful that we have our specialist here. We have always been—

Senator Abdul Salami Yusifu : I think that Senator Ugwuocha whilst speaking on the Floor of this House should not try to observe who is here and who is not here.

The President : What Order is that? This order does not seem to appear in the book here.

Chief Ugwuocha : I am sorry we have our specialists here in the House and in the Gallery. What are we doing about diagnosing our Nigerian drugs? When shall we start it? The other day as I was travelling from my home to Lagos I happened to give a lift to one native doctor. I drove the car for about fifty miles and the native doctor said he wanted to ease himself. I immediately stopped. In the nearby bush a man was crying seriously. Somebody said he was bitten by a snake. My passenger after easing himself went to the scene and asked what sort of snake bit the man. Then the children who were in the farm described it. The native doctor went into the bush and collected some leaves and roots. He came out and dipped them in the water and asked the unconscious man to drink the water. He drank it. The native doctor said that within five minutes the man would vomit some black objects. I was watching my time and exactly five minutes later the man vomitted. Then the native doctor applied roots to the place where the snake bit him. All the teeth of the snake came out that moment. I would like the Government to encourage our native doctors so that they can research into our native medicine and then we shall begin to send Nigerian drugs overseas for sale.

It is gratifying to note that at page 6 of the Official Report of the 27th March, 1963, the Governor-General said, among things, "*The West African Council on Medical Research will be reconstituted*". It is expected that when the time comes, native herbalists will be consulted and that serious consideration will be given to their advice on how to improve Nigerian drugs.

Another point I would like to comment upon is the question of house rents in Lagos. Senator Chief Acholonu made some very good points on the question. Some people thought that because most of us in the Senate are landlords, we will not support rent control. I do not agree with this. Let us take, for example, the case of a youngman who is on a salary of £15. After paying his rent of £4, £6, or £8, as the case may be, depending on the locality of his residence in Lagos, he has to provide himself and his family with food and, in addition, perhaps pay his children's school fees. What is left of £15?

Some Senators : Nothing.

Senator Chief Ugwuocha : There we are. Nothing is left for the young man to live on.

Again the other day, whilst attending a party at the State House, I noticed a skull floating on the lagoon. People often accuse our women of being wayward. This is one of the reasons. When people cannot afford to pay house rents and have to sleep at street corners, there is every possibility that other people will take advantage of the position. I would therefore urge this Senate to request the Government to appoint a Committee to probe the question of house rents in Lagos and other places in the Federation.

Another point is about our Six-Year Development Programme. The Speech from the Throne was silent about it. Last year hon. Members of both Houses gave up part of the remuneration in pursuance of the scheme—that was the year when we had our "Austerity" Budget. But the civil servants, some of whom earn £3,000, big traders and businessmen, contractors and several other affluent people, have been left alone, and all these people, it is true to say, will equally benefit from this our Six-Year Development Programme. If we want the scheme to be successful, the best thing to do is to ask people like Senator Chief Z. C. Obi who is a very wealthy man to contribute, say, £10. The same thing goes for people like Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku. We would take these contributions as loan and I am sure that in the end we would be able to realise about £5 million. This is a better way than going overseas to borrow money which we have to refund, at a high interest rate.

Another point is that in about ten years' time in this country we shall suffer from famine!

Minister of State (Chief the hon. H. Omo-Osagie) : On a point of order, I would like to know how many premium bonds Senator Chief Ugwuocha has bought ?

The President : The Senator is on another subject, let us not take him back.

Senator Chief Ugwuocha : We must start now to take precaution. If we say that everybody should go to school, it is quite all right and, in fact, that is what is happening now. But in ten years' time all of them will have become school leavers and none of them will like to go back to the farm. (*Interruptions*). Mr President, Sir, I crave your protection.

Senator Abdul Salami Yusifu : On a point of order, I think the Senator should address the Chair and not individual Members of the Senate.

The President : Will the Senator address me and not listen to the asides.

Senator Chief Ugwuocha : I have been addressing you, Sir.

I know that there are farm settlements in the Regions as suggested by one Senator but what I am saying is that we should make it a point of duty to create a Food Ministry and then establish more agricultural schools in the country so that those who would like to go to these schools and specialise could have the opportunity. That is the point I am emphasising.

A Senator : Fire, fire !

Senator Chief Ugwuocha : I am firing. (*Laughter*).

We want to have agricultural schools built so that all school leavers can go there and start to learn about farming, because, looking at the vast areas of land in the Federation, it is necessary that we adopt this policy so that we shall be able to increase farm settlements in years to come.

Senator Malachias Bawa : On a point of order Senator Chief Ugwuocha, I think, has not gone through his copy of Annual Report on Agricultural Research and so on.

The President : That is not a point of order.

Senator Chief Ugwuocha : I have a right to discuss it here because this is a welcome Address from the Throne.

A Senator : A welcome Address ?

Senator Chief Ugwuocha : Speech from the Throne !

The President : Do not talk to the Senators, please talk to me.

Senator Chief Ugwuocha : The next point I am going to touch upon is about the British High Commissioner's residence in Nigeria. We all know that since our independence in Nigeria Great Britain has changed into a wolf preying on the independent Nigerian Government. It is said that if one wants to eat with the devil one must use a long spoon. We have the British High Commissioner's building placed in a conspicuous place in Lagos, the Federal Capital of Nigeria. No one would know when he might make arrangements to send telegrams and cablegrams overseas. No one would know when he might send for army from abroad. We would all be sleeping here in Nigeria.

Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu : I think Senator Chief Ugwuocha is imputing bad motives.

The President : On whom ?

Senator Chief Acholonu : On—

The President : On the British Government ?

Senator Chief Acholonu : Yes, Sir.

Senator Chief Ugwuocha : I am entitled to my opinion.

The President : Order ! When you talk about imputing motives it must be on a Senator or a Minister here. You must not impute motives on any of us here, but certainly you can impute motives on the British or the American Government.

Senator Chief Ugwuocha : I am not imputing motives on the British Government.

The President : I have said that.

Senator Chief Ugwuocha : We should always protect ourselves in doing certain things, and the British High Commissioner's residence should be removed from that conspicuous place.

Another point I would like to make is about high taxation.

The President : I want to remind Senators that we are here for a Budget Session, but everyone of us wants to say everything in one topic. Senators have got so many Bills coming which will cover some of those things they are saying. The Appropriation Bill is coming, and that will be the appropriate time to talk about that. So, be well guided, and do not say everything to-day.

Senator Chief Ugwuocha : Finally, I would congratulate all the Senators, Ministers, Clerks, and our hon. President.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister of Health (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): When the policy of the Government, as outlined in the Speech from the Throne, and the views of the Senate, as expressed during this Debate on the Address, are in such a harmony, I think it is quite superfluous that I should make any lengthy speech other than to thank Senators for the very good things they have said about the Government and to remind them that the very fact that our views are in such a harmony with the views of the Senate shows that the Government has probably been taking the advice of the Senators.

Most of the things which we are now going to do and which are set out in the Speech from the Throne are suggestions which have been given by the Senators during the course of the debate in the past year. Of course, there are one or two points made by Senators which I cannot help but touch upon, particularly the Cinematograph Bill about which practically every Senator has spoken. They have made a very good point on this Cinematograph Bill, and I assure them that the points which they have made will be brought to the notice of the Minister of Information.

I am particularly pleased that Senator Beyioku did press that we should make an effort to publicise Nigeria to our own people, and I think it is a good idea that cinema proprietors should be made to show to their audience as one of the films which they show between programmes. Nigerian films produced by the Ministry of Information. This also will be brought to the notice of the Ministry of Information.

Of course, a Senator has spoken about the use of African herbs. He spoke at great length about somebody who was bitten by a snake. While I do not share his belief in the effect of charm which was used to remove the fang of the snake from the bite, I do want to assure him that we are not neglecting the study of African herbs. Now, the Government is currently spending £23,000 for research into the medicinal values of African herbs.

A Senator : That is too small.

The Minister of Health : When this is taken in conjunction with other aspects of research which are going on, it will be seen that the Government is not neglecting this very important thing.

Finally, I would like to thank Senator Chief Z. C. Obi for the very kind things he has said about me personally.

I think, now that every Senator has had a say on this Motion on the Address from the Throne, we should now put the Question.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved : That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency, the Governor-General, 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.”

PRODUCE (CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT)

BILL

The President : I have a Message from the other House. The House of Representatives transmits to this honourable Senate the Produce (Constitutional Amendment) Bill passed by the House of Representatives and in which the House of Representatives desires the concurrence of the Senate.

11.57 a.m.

Order for Second Reading read.

Minister of State (Chief the hon. H. Omo-Osagie): I rise to move, That a Bill for an Act to authorise the making of Orders with retrospective effect defining produce for the purposes of the present and former Constitutions of the Federation, be read a Second time.

This is a brief Bill, and I do not intend to take a lot of the time of the Senate in explaining it.

As Senators know, since the full Regionalisation of Nigeria under the 1954 Constitution, the power to levy sales and purchase taxes on produce has always lain with the Regions, and the Regional Governments, especially the Government of Northern Nigeria, have imposed such taxes on several commodities. I said that the power to levy such taxes on produce has lain with the Regions since 1954. But in

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fact, this is not the whole truth. For, on 15th March, 1959, the 1954 Constitution was amended to give effect to the accepted recommendations of the Raisman Fiscal Commission. And in this Amendment the draftsmen provided for Regional sales and purchase taxes on produce in rather a roundabout way.

They inserted a new Item 35A in the Exclusive Legislative List, making sales and purchase taxes, with a few exceptions, an exclusive Federal subject. One of these exceptions was "produce." But elsewhere in the Constitution "produce" was defined as such animal or vegetable products, whether processed or in a natural state, as might with the consent of the Governments of the Regions be designated by the Governor-General in Council by order. Unless such an order is made by the Governor-General in Council no commodity is "produce" for the purpose of the Constitution, and therefore the Regions have no power to impose purchase or sales taxes on that commodity. The present Constitution contains similar provisions.

Unfortunately, the Regional Governments overlooked this vital little provision of the Constitution, and one Government at least has, since 15th March, 1959, purported to impose sales taxes on produce without first requesting the Federal Government to make the necessary Order in Council. Only when the Regional Government was advised that its produce sales taxes were *ultra vires* did it belatedly ask the Federal Government to make the necessary Order in Council. And in order that the legality of taxes already collected should be put beyond doubt, it asked that the Order be made retrospective to 15th March, 1959. All the Regional Governments have supported this request.

But the Federal Government was advised that the necessary Orders in Council defining produce could not be made retrospective to March 1959, because the Constitution then in force was revoked in 1960. I think it is self-evident that the Government could not, in 1963, make an Order under a Constitution that ceased to exist in 1960.

So in the present Bill we are asking Parliament to provide the authority under which the Federal Government can make an Order in Council defining produce with retrospective effect to a date before the commencement of the present constitution.

The Bill also makes provision for two supplementary matters. Firstly, it provides that a person already convicted or punished for an offence under a law subsequently validated as a result of this Bill, shall be deemed to have been duly convicted or punished. And secondly, it provides that criminal proceedings shall not be instituted against a person for any act or omission occurring before the validation of the law. This upholds the principle that a man should not be punished for something that was not an offence at the time that it was done.

In conclusion, I would emphasise that the Federal Government has introduced this Bill in order to meet a requirement of the Regional Governments, and that, to fulfil its purpose, the Bill *must* enable any Order defining "produce" to be made retrospective to a date *before* the commencement of the present Constitution. Without this, the Bill would lose its purpose.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Health (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): I beg to second.

12.06 p.m.

Senator J. K. Nzerem : I do not think that this Bill will take much of our time, but there is only one aspect of it on which I would like to speak. I think our Regional Governments, as well as the Government of the Federation, should be very careful in future because we have Attorneys-General and members of the legal profession whom the Government pays very well to look after our legal matters. Why should they not have discovered that the Government is not right to impose such taxes or such conditions without Parliament amending the Constitution? I think there should be a warning to those Governments to look carefully before they leap. It is not our intention to embarrass the Government since it is their desire to legalise something which has not been well done in the past. I do not think we should embarrass them. We should let the law pass, but in future they must be more careful. I think it is reasonable to allow the law to pass.

12.07 p.m.

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku : On this matter, rather than making any form of adverse comment on either the Government or the officials of State, I feel I want to com-

mend their effort. It should be borne in mind that after all we are still young and, after all, some of us did participate in the framing and bringing about of the Constitution. But the Constitution of a nation is never complete. It keeps on undergoing amendment and amendment from generation to generation. There may be still existing in our Constitution certain clauses which perhaps up till now have not arrested our attention as to their being irregular. It may be when we should have gone and our children come to take our places they find that all those clauses were irregular or that there have been certain things which their fathers had done which were really irregular. I feel the main purpose of this Bill is to regularise an irregularity, and I feel that is why we exist and why Parliament exists.

In this matter I am only sorry that after all some people have been made to pay. But they were made to pay in the interest of the coffers of the nation, therefore, there can be no going back to any sort of refund or something like that. I feel a majority of us here are patriotic enough, and I feel I know people who might be affected—people like my very good friend, Doherty who have dealt with produce and who may be claiming up to £2,000 or something less. (*Laughter*). He may be thinking of filing a claim (*Laughter*) but I am sure he would not do that now.

I think we have to commend the efforts of our Ministry of Finance. But one thing I do observe: it appears that the very eminent Minister himself is feeling shy of coming here. Well, if he wants to allocate to the Senate the hon. Minister of State (*Chief H. Omo-Osage*)—because he is an old man and this place, being a place for old men, suits him—I think the permission will be very much welcome, and perhaps our very able Minister of State would like to become a Senator so that he takes his permanent seat in the Senate. But whether or not that happens, I think we welcome him.

This is not controversial, but in future—

Chief the hon. H. Omo-Osage : On a point of order, I will assure the Senator that by the next period, I may be a member of this House. (*Laughter*).

Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku : I am very happy the invitation is accepted.

I support the Bill.

12.09 p.m.

Senator M. B. Chukwubike : I wholeheartedly support the Bill, the presentation of which is yet another eloquent testimony of the Federal Government.

In supporting it, I have a very serious and founded accusation to make against our produce inspectors, or whatever you call them. These men, I must say with all the emphasis in me, are the most dishonest workers we have throughout the whole Federation. They do not only unduly delay our produce sellers, but they dupe them of their honest money. Senators who have something to do with these workers will agree that what I am saying is the correct thing. We often accuse our policemen of engaging in the worst type of bribery in this country, forgetting that in other departments there are worse offenders, for example, this particular department. After seeing all the shameful and dishonest practices there one wonders where we are heading to. If these examiners had been conducting this examination with a view to offering to the outside world the best we could produce that would have been a different thing, and nobody would have quarrelled with that. But their chief aim is to collect as much money as they can in a day from their victims.

Senator P. A. Ogundipe : On a point of order, I am afraid the Senator is not confining himself to what is required by the Bill. The question of inspectors is not the subject of the Bill. The Government has brought this Bill to regularise the Constitution. Therefore, I do not feel that this is the time to bring in the question of inspectors.

The President : The Senator point of order is well taken. But I was watching and hoping that the Senator who was speaking will not go too far.

Senator Chukwubike : I am not going very far, Mr President. All I am trying to—

The President : Do not let us debate it. The Senator is clearly out of order. I was trying to be soft with him but he does not seem to realise it. All the Senator has to do is to mention what he wants to mention quickly and go to other things before the Chair catches him.

Senator Chukwubike : I feel I have made my points, Mr President. I support the Bill.

12.12 p.m.

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : I only want to make one point. Suppose this Bill turns round and says that sales tax should have been collected from people as from the 15th of March, 1959, whereas sales tax had not been collected, what will happen? Many of us have already fallen victims to this Bill. People have been imprisoned; people's houses have been *fifaed* and people have been *cassaed* for failure to pay produce sales tax, particularly on rubber. If this tax was levied with no law to support it, will Government come to the assistance of people who have been victimised? What about people who have been imprisoned for failing to pay this tax which at that particular time had not become law? What is the Government going to do about that?

The President : The point is that the Senator did not discover it. It is the same Government that discovered it that wants to make the law retrospective so that it will cover the people for whom the Senator is pleading.

Senator Asemota : That is so. But our Government should also be magnanimous and take into consideration the effect of this Bill on the people who have already suffered. The Government should devise means of meeting them somewhere. I do not think any produce trader or the people involved actually refused to pay. But those who paid did not pay it willingly. They were compelled to pay.

The President : I want to remind the Senator that this is merely a bit of legal technicality. That is all. That is not exonerated.

Senator Asemota : Yes, Sir. But the point is this. A small thing of this nature can develop into a big thing. Whatever happens, I would like the Government to take into consideration the people who have already been affected by this Bill, and find a way to meet them somehow.

12.15 p.m.

Senator Chief R. A. Umoh : In supporting this Bill, I want to remind the Government that the interest of the generality of the people of this country is on produce. Those from the North have their groundnuts and other pro-

duce. My own area is a palm producing area, and we have engaged in it for a good length of time. Now it seems that activity in this field is dwindling because the people gain little or nothing from their labour.

While on this matter concerning produce I would like to bring this point to the attention of the Government. If it is the taxation on this produce that has caused prices to fall so low Government should look into it. After all, we want to encourage the people on the spot in order that they may take more interest in their produce. The only way to do it is to increase the price of their produce. We are finding more and better markets for our produce. How will these markets affect the immediate producers in the villages? Men and women, old and young are toiling day in and day out on their farms. That is their only means of subsistence. But the Government seems to overlook the whole issue. If the low prices are due to too heavy taxation on the produce I have to call upon the Government to look into it and reduce the taxes a bit and encourage the people to have more interest in producing more so that the Government may have more produce to send to other places.

I beg to support.

Question put and agreed to.

The President : In order to satisfy the provisions of section 4, subsection (2) of our Constitution, the Senate will now proceed to a Division.

The Senate divided.

Ayes :— 36, Noes :— Nil, Abstentions :—

Nil.

Seat

No.

Name of Member

AYES

- 1 Senator M. A. Green
- 2 Senator Nwoke
- 3 Senator Asemota
- 4 Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku
- 5 Senator Bawa
- 6 Senator Chukwubike
- 8 Senator Alhaji Metteden
- 9 Senator Abaagu
- 10 Senator Chief Ugwuocha
- 11 Senator Chief Ojon
- 12 Senator Adele II, Oba of Lagos
- 13 Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale
- 14 Senator Chief Ndu
- 18 Senator Nzerem
- 19 Senator Chief Hunponu-Wusu
- 20 Senator Chief Acholonu
- 21 Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba

Seat No.	Name of Member
22	Senator Chief Obi
23	Senator Olamijulo
25	Senator Salahu Fulani
27	Senator Chief Esangbedo
28	Senator Chief Doherty
29	Senator Hassan Rafin Dadi
30	Senator Chief Nakoku
32	Senator Idirisu-Tafidan Adamawa
33	Senator Udoh
34	Senator Eytayo
35	Senator Yesufu
36	Senator Ukattah
37	Senator Ogundipe
38	Senator Zanna Sheriff
39	Senator Chief Umoh
41	Senator Alhaji Ungogo
42	Senator Alhaji Abudu Minister of Health Minister of State (Dr E. A. Esin)

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

PRODUCE (CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT)

BILL :

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clauses 1 and 2 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported, without Amendment.

The President : In view of the requirements of the Constitution of the Federation of Nigeria, I direct that the Senate proceed to a Division.

The Senate divided.

Ayes : 36 Noes : Nil Abstentions : Nil.

Seat No.	Name of Member
AYES	
1	Senator M. A. Green
2	Senator Nwoke
3	Senator Asemota
4	Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku
5	Senator Bawa
6	Senator Chukwubike
8	Senator Alhaji Metteden
9	Senator Abaagu
10	Senator Chief Ugwuocha
11	Senator Chief Ojon
12	Senator Adele II, Oba of Lagos
13	Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale
14	Senator Chief Ndu
18	Senator Nzerem
19	Senator Chief Hunponu-Wusu
20	Senator Chief Acholonu
21	Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba
22	Senator Chief Obi
23	Senator Olamijulo
25	Senator Salahu Fulani
27	Senator Chief Esangbedo

Seat No.	Name of Member
28	Senator Chief Doherty
29	Senator Hassan Rafin Dadi
30	Senator Chief Nakoku
32	Senator Idirisu-Tafidan Adamawa
33	Senator Udoh
34	Senator Eytayo
35	Senator Yesufu
36	Senator Ukattah
37	Senator Ogundipe
38	Senator Zanna Sheriff
39	Senator Chief Umoh
41	Senator Alhaji Ungogo
42	Senator Alhaji Abudu Minister of Health Minister of State (Dr E. A. Esin)

Bill accordingly read a Third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Senate do now adjourn, till Wednesday, 24th April—(THE MINISTER OF HEALTH).

ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

Senator J. K. Nzerem : The practice of member of Parliament—Members of both Houses—absenting themselves from meetings of Parliament has become so common that comments are being made on it by people all over the country. It is quite understandable for a Member to be absent from a meeting for a good and reasonable cause. But the present practice of Members putting up an appearance, drawing their allowances and then absconding, is very undesirable, and I think the time has come for the Government to find a way of trying to prevent this.

After all, Members of Parliament are paid for their work, and they only earn that pay when they come to Parliament to work. I would suggest with all seriousness that the Government should enact a law to prevent Members who do not attend the meetings of Parliament in a particular month from drawing their salaries for that month during which Parliament met.

It is morally wrong for anybody who does not come to Parliament to be drawing the money. If a man is not willing to serve he should not contest an election. And, if a Senator is not willing to serve, he should decline appointment. But when we take it upon ourselves to become Members of Parliament, we ought to be able to set aside all other commitments of ours, and come to Parliament when Parliament assembles.

[SENATOR NZEREM]

NAMING OF LAGOS STREETS

Another matter I want to raise is the re-naming of certain streets in Lagos, particularly in Ikoyi and Victoria Island.

As you drive around Ikoyi you find names given to streets, names that do not mean anything to us, you just cannot imagine what some of the names connote.

I have seen a Dick Street. What on earth does Dick mean? What idea does it bring to anybody's mind? I think the time has come when our streets should be named after important Nigerian personalities and important towns and places in Nigeria, rather than Dicks, and Foxes and so on.

I do not at all mean to overlook or undermine the amount of good work that expatriate civil servants have done in this country. The British have done wonderful work for us. The British civil servant is a very hardworking man, efficient and very devoted to duty. We appreciate that. Britain has left us a good legacy in the institution of its civil service, and Nigeria is paying adequately for the services of these people. We continue to pay them pension. Whenever they are mentioned, we respect them. But we cannot pay them by giving our streets their names, perpetuating their names in that way.

After all, you do not find Roman names in London. The British were colonised by the Romans, but you do not find any Roman names along Trafalgar Square. So, I do not see why we should allow the names of British civil servants to dominate our roads and streets.

I would like to make a suggestion which perhaps you may think a little selfish, but I can assure you it is not. What if all the streets in Ikoyi and Victoria Island and parts of Lagos are named after Members of Parliament who sat here when the Independence Act was passed? (*Hear, hear*).

I think that certainly the time has come when the names of some of our roads bearing British civil servants' names should be changed. These are my humble suggestions. Thank you.

Senator M. B. Chukwubike : I want at this stage to request that befitting arrangements be made for all interested Senators to tour some places like Loco Workshop and Loco Running-shed and—

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku : On a point of order, this matter was raised and finished with last year. Then it was decided that interested Senators should contact the Clerk on their arrival and when they so indicate, the Clerk will make arrangements.

The President : I hope the Senator will be well guided.

Senator Chukwubike : I do not think, Sir, it was raised. I mean—

The President : Do not let us argue this thing now. You are fond of arguing when somebody raises a point of order. It was raised and I sent some Senators to go to some places. Senator Fulani headed that group. If you were not here, you should not argue about things you do not know.

12.30 p.m.

USE OF LEGCO. FLATS

Senator Chief R. A. Umoh : I rise to present a case : that is to ask for an extension of the period of Senators occupying Legislators' Flats to two weeks before and after the meeting of the Senate. The reason for this is that at times some Senators come with their cars broken down and the period allotted—three days after the meetings—is not enough for them to get their cars repaired and be able to travel back home in safety. At times it takes two weeks or more, and when they are forced to leave the Flats three days after the meeting, they are then stranded in Lagos seeking other accommodation in which they pay rents.

Another reason is that at times they come with their families, and their children may be admitted into hospital for a number of days, and if they are going to leave the Flats, I wonder what is going to happen to the member of the family who is admitted into hospital.

In view of these and many other reasons which I am not prepared to raise at the moment, I ask that there should be an extension to two weeks before and after the meetings of the Senate.

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : In supporting what Senator Nzerem has said, as you are aware, there are few Senators in this place who just put in appearance once in a year. After the Governor-General's Speech from the Throne is read and we have debated it,

they disappear and you do not see them again till the following year. Some try to come again only when we open the Budget debate and when they have made their contributions, they disappear.

I know that section 62 of the Standing Orders provides that any Senator who is prevented from attending meetings should acquaint the Clerk as soon as possible of his reasons. Well, I think this covers Senators who are ill and who want to travel overseas or who have some very urgent things to do, but not to make it a regular thing month in month out, year in year out. If that provision covers any Senator just putting in appearance once and disappearing for the whole of the year, or putting up appearance twice and going away, we want to know definitely because it is becoming so frequent now that some of us are thinking seriously if we should not take the same line and follow suit.

The other point I like to raise is in connection with the Session of Wednesday the 27th of March, when both Houses of Parliament met at the National Hall. I understand that when both Houses meet, the National Hall automatically becomes the Senate. It appears to me now that that is not the case because, although the Proclamation and all the minutes here say that the House was conducted by the President of the Senate, here is the recording of the Hansard of that day. It said, "House of Representatives" whereas it should be the "House of Senate". I believe a thing of this nature can spark—

The President : It should be the "House of Senate". The reason why we go to the National Hall is that this place is too small, and for the purpose of opening of Parliament, that place becomes the "House of Senate". Please let the Clerks take note of this.

Senator Asemota : If there is any decision taken on that day, clever lawyer can throw it out by arguing that this is not the "House of Representatives" but the "House of Senate". Our President does not preside over the meetings of the House of Representatives.

That is all I have got to say.

Senator T. Olamijulo : With regard to frequent absence from the meetings of the Senate, I think we should not condone it at all.

As this is already covered by our Standing Orders, that those who have reasons to be absent should inform the Clerk in writing, we should therefore ask the President to see that those who are habitual absentees are dealt with. Something should be done about them and they should be warned and those who are unable to be present because of sickness or any other thing, should be considered quite differently.

Senator Chief Z. C. Obi : I must say that I was never aware that there was any time limit as to how long Members should remain in the quarters while attending meetings of the Senate. I have to support Senator Chief Umoh with the suggestion that there should be no time limit. If a member comes here to attend the meetings of the Senate, I do not see any reason why he should be asked to quit the place, because certain things could happen which may not lie within, should I say, the competence of the person to obviate. For instance, when I was coming for this present Session, my car got involved in an accident. It has got to be repaired before I go back. It is only to-day that the U.T.C. was able to accept it, and I cannot say for how long it will remain there for repairs.

Secondly, my health is not so good and I have started to attend hospital here for treatment. I may stay indefinitely, but God forbid that. So that I support the view that there should be no time limit for staying in the Legislators' quarters while attending the meetings of the Senate.

Senator H. N. Udoh : I wonder if the Minister of State in charge will reconsider this. At the onset, we were told "three days before and three days after" and any other period following, the Senators concerned will be charged. This is a decision the Minister should reconsider.

Again, on the other hand, information has it that some people who are not in any way connected with the Legislature are living there free of charge and they are not driven out. I am supporting those who say that there should be no time limit.

Senator S. Eytayo : Supporting Senator Asemota and the sentiments he expressed about Senators absenting themselves from the meetings of the House, I think it is a very bad practice that must be discouraged. I think we

[SENATOR EYITAYO]

all come here to work and if we know that we are tired, the better it is for such Members to resign and let others who will do the business come forward. I think it is something that the Ministers should look into. It is certainly something that must be discouraged.

Senator A. Nwoke : Sometime ago at Umuahia, an Administrative Officer advised members to remove certain names of previous Administrative Officers. They objected on the ground that if they removed that name and inserted his they had not a guarantee that future officers coming would not make a repetition, so that nobody's name is there at last. I have looked at this question of names in Ikoyi and I have little sympathy. I have sympathy with names like Inner Crescent, Outer Crescent, etc., and names like South End and North End. These meaningless names of roads which are not attached to personalities could be attacked. If we get into real exercise, we will find that there are real names that should be there. For instance, names like Lugard, Robertson and MacPherson and the rest of the important personalities should not be rubbed off.

In this regard the question of changing the names to our African names should not be a total policy. It should be done with some amount of restraint. Care should be taken to exercise any amount of reserve in sorting out the names. I am not in total agreement of removing all such names, because as soon as you finish inserting the new names you may have some Africans who are doing some other good jobs for the nation, and it might then necessitate erasing the former names. Instead, I demand that the Minister of Information should have a go at the names, especially the important names of personalities who actually helped the nation, and those that did not go far could be removed along with those meaningless names, like Inner Crescent, etc.

On the question of our Members running themselves into difficulties when they come here and before they go away, I would not endorse such idea. I feel there is a bit of negligence on the part of the authorities not to apply the law, since there is a legislation that membership fails to be valid after a number of absences. So it will not be a fault of the members that they are absent for years without anything

being done to them, but that of the interpreters of the law. I feel, from the feelings of Members, the law should be tightened a little bit by sending a general warning calling attention of all Members to that particular provision in the law.

12.44 p.m.

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku : Now for the first time, I think I want to have a word with our own Minister of Health. Each time Members of this House get up, they criticize the Press, they criticize the Radio, and in fact they criticize everybody—that they do not recognise the Senators themselves. If there is anybody who does not recognise the Senators at all, I think the Minister of Health is the man setting the example. I cannot remember anything which has to do with the Ministry of Health where the Minister of Health will feel like inviting the Senators, even Senators who are resident in Lagos, to any of his parties, because he does not consider them up to his level. Of late, while the Senate was on, there was something going on near my house at Idi Araba.

A Senator : You were not invited ?

Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku : I am happy when I am with the common men. I am not happy when I am with all these men who show their faces and not their minds. I do not go to most of these parties, with the exception of the Governor-General's party. I always like to go to the common man's shows. I just want to tell you that when that place was opened we were in town. There was one at Martins, when it was opened Senators were in Lagos. The Maternity Hospital, when it was opened Senators were in Lagos. We take note of all these things. If our own Minister will not give recognition to us, why do we have to blame the Press ? Why do we have to blame the Radio ?

I want to say this so that people might know, because I come out in the open. I do not think the treatment the Minister of Health is giving to Senators in such matters is fair. If there is only one Senator in Lagos, he is more important than any Minister. Never mind we do not draw more money than they do, but everything they do in the Cabinet must have to come here for ratification. That is why we take precedence.

On the question of quarters, I am in sympathy with my fellow Senators who have come all the way, but that is a problem I think our own Minister will have to look into. The only unfortunate thing is that when Senators and Legislators have gone, those quarters are reallocated to visitors from somewhere else. Otherwise, I have to suggest that the best thing to do is to allocate to every Legislator his own apartment, if he wants to put his extra furniture for his extra friend he can do so. That could be a very good idea, but I think the Minister would like to have a word with the Government on the matter.

Senator H. O. Abaagu : On this question of street names, I think we have attached too much importance to our former civil servants to the disadvantage of our heroes. Take, for instance, I have never in Lagos seen a street name after the late Mbonu Ojike. Apart from this man being one of the pioneers of Nigeria's freedom, he was once the Deputy Mayor of Lagos municipality. I think it will be befitting if a very conspicuous street is named after the late Mbonu Ojike.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank those who are the promoters of the Ojike Memorial Hospital project which is going to be sited somewhere in the East.

The other thing is the question of accommodation. I would have suggested that there should be no time limit, but for the fact that if there is not time limit, the privilege may be abused, certain Senators may just come to Lagos for their private business and then occupy the quarters and the Government will have no place to house its august visitors. (Applause). The suggestion put forward by Senator Umoh should be looked into, that is, extending the time limit to two weeks before Parliament resumes sitting and two weeks after it had adjourned.

On the question of the absence of Senators, I think the remedy for this is for this Government to inform the Regional Governments—who are responsible for electing the Senators—about the performance of certain Senators, so that when the Government is considering re-electing the Senators, it would take into consideration their previous performances.

I support the Motion.

The Minister of Health (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi) : There have been only two subjects raised on this debate on the Motion for Adjournment which require a reply from me. The first one is the question of accommodation for the Senators.

Senators would like to remain in their quarters for two weeks before the Parliament reconvenes and two weeks after Parliament rises. This question has been very closely studied by the Government. As you know, the practice in the past was that quarters were available to Legislators whenever they came to Lagos but, unfortunately, some Members of the Legislature have not been living up to the standard required of them. They have been subletting these quarters and even making money on them. (Interruptions). That is true.

The Government looked into this and we introduced this rule because it is necessary for Government to house legislators when they come to Lagos. But if legislators should come to Lagos to conduct their own private business, I do not think it is fair to expect Government to accept responsibility for housing them. As Members of the Legislature, they are however given the privilege of staying in some of these Legco Flats, as they are called, at a reduced rental and I think that is only fair. If a Senator is delayed in Lagos and not conducting the business of this House, he can pay for his accommodation. After all each Senator is handsomely paid for being a Member of the Senate.

If a Senator comes to Lagos to conduct his own business or he wants to remain in Lagos after the sitting of the Senate to conduct his private business, I think it is only fair that he should pay for his accommodation particularly when that accommodation is a sort of economic value. Even if you stay in a hotel in Lagos you will certainly pay more than you are expected to pay for occupying Legco Flats. I hope that that explanation will satisfy many Senators because I think we should be responsible as a Government. We cannot afford to fritter away the revenue of this country. Whatever expenditure we incur, we want to justify it to our people who are taxed to produce the revenue.

The second point—

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : On a point of explanation, Mr President.

The Minister of Health : I will not yield Sir. I do not think that there is anything to explain in this issue. I am responsible to make explanations to Members. They have made their points and I hope they will have the patience to listen to the explanation which is being given to them.

Several Senators rose.

The President : Let the Minister finish.

The Minister of Health : I think Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku has been very unfair to me in suggesting that Senators are not big enough to be invited to occasions when Medical Institutions are being opened. Well, two Institutions have been opened since I became the Minister of Health. The first one was the Children's Hospital in Massey Street, which was opened by Her Excellency, Mrs Flora Azikiwe. On that occasion, the Senate was in Session and those Members of the Senate who came had invitation to this function put in their pigeon-holes.

The second occasion was when we had the opening of the University of Lagos Medical School. It was in October, the House was not in Session and Members of the Senate who are resident in Lagos were invited. But those of them who are not resident in Lagos could hardly expect invitations to be sent to them in their provinces where they are to travel seven hundred or a thousand miles to Lagos to attend the opening. Of course if Senators wish to come we shall only be too delighted to issue an open invitation to Senators whenever they come to Lagos to come round and visit our Institutions.

You have very rightly pointed out, Mr President, that they only need to inform the Clerk of the House that they would wish to visit these institutions and arrangement would be made that they should be conducted round because as leaders of this nation, they should know what is being done with their money. It will be a sort of encouragement to those of our employees and officers who are working in these Institutions too that what they are doing is being inspected by Senators. I would be very glad indeed if you would arrange visits to Hospitals and other Medical Institutions by Members of the Senate who would wish to visit these places.

Thank you.

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : The hon. the Minister of Health has not given the assurance that Members would be allowed to live in LegCo Flats two weeks before and two weeks after the sitting of the Senate.

The President : He said he would not.

Senator Asemota : If one comes here and finds that one's car has broken down or that one's child is in the hospital thus forcing one to spend about two weeks in Lagos, what would one do? Under such circumstances, I think the Minister should be a little bit considerate by allowing Senators to remain two weeks before and two weeks after; that is just to cover those important periods within which anything might happen.

Not all Senators wish to stay on, I for one, if I do not go away to-day, I will go away first thing tomorrow morning. I shall not be back here again till 21st or 22nd April. All the same, we have to have that assurance that if our cars break down, we will be provided for. It is no use sitting here for three or four days and then go out and look for an accommodation whilst my child is in the hospital or my car is under repairs.

The President : That is not the point. Let us get the point straight. The point is that after three days you start to pay reduced rent. You are not thrown out. That is what the Minister is saying.

Senator Asemota : We want it to be free and I am asking the Minister to consider giving two weeks of grace.

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku : I thank the Minister for his explanation but I think we all agree that the explanation is not tenable. We know very well that all Senators are not resident in Lagos but at least in Lagos we have four Senators. I am sure if the Oba of Lagos had not been the Oba of Lagos he would not have been invited to some of these functions; after all there are other Senators resident in Lagos. If for every function all Ministers are invited, I do not see why the Senators should be left out. It is not a question of visiting institutions. If we want to visit we can organise it and visit any institution. We have the right to do so. We do not want to be told. We want to be recognised; charity begins at home.

I am sure if the President of the Senate had not been the President perhaps he himself could have been given the same treatment. If in Port Harcourt from where Senator Obi comes there is a State affairs and people do not recognise him, it will be a slight on this Senate as well as on Senators in that area. That is what we are driving at. The hon. Minister being a Senator himself, if something is going on in his Ministry, will see to it that the Ministers are invited. But simply because the Oba of Lagos happens to be the Oba and the President of the Senate happens to be the President, all the other Senators are not recognised. I am not speaking of myself, but some people will come in future. I simply resent it. Let charity begin at home.

Senator Chief Z. C. Obi : I do not think that our rules are so rigid that they cannot be altered. I would like the hon. the Minister of Health to give second thought to the submissions we are making on the question of remaining in our quarters after the sitting of the Senate. I believe that when those rules were made, no consideration was given to unforeseen circumstances. For instance, I have said that when I was coming I met with a car accident and my car was delivered to-day after repairs. It would be degrading for me to begin to pay rent while here on Senate duty. If my child is sick and is to receive treatment for about two weeks it means I shall suddenly

become a tenant somewhere and then start paying rent. I would like the Minister of Health to give these cases consideration on their merits.

Senator A. Nwoke : I am quite in sympathy with what other Senators have said as well as with the explanation by the Minister of Health. There is one snag in the whole thing. A man behaves differently from others, I do not think anybody else has to be penalised except that particular individual. It is just possible that some people will take undue advantage of a certain situation. The question of somebody coming in and then harbouring a friend or relative who should normally occupy separate quarters is just ridiculous. What guarantee have we that if our request is granted as regards someone whose car is under repair, that person will not be riding in an old car pretending that it is under repair? All these things are possibilities. Members of the Senate will not descend to that level. I feel that the Minister of Health should reconsider the situation and know how exactly to grant this two weeks' lodging before and after meetings.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Senate do now adjourn till Wednesday, 24th April.

Adjourned accordingly at one minute to one o'clock.

SENATE OF THE FEDERATION
OF NIGERIA

Wednesday, 24th April, 1963

The Senate met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

BUSINESS STATEMENT

Minister of State (Senator Dr the hon. E. A. Esin) : The business of the day is as on the Order Paper. The Appropriation Bill and one or two other Bills will come later on when they have been dealt with in the Lower House.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Trade Disputes

*O.1. **Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku** asked the Minister of Labour and Welfare, how many trade disputes were declared by registered trade unions during the year 1962, stating what were the main points in dispute; how many of the disputes were successfully settled and how many remain unresolved.

Minister of State (Senator Dr the hon. E. A. Esin) : A total of one hundred and three trade disputes declared by registered trade unions were notified to my Ministry between the period 1st April, 1962, and 31st March, 1963. This is twenty-four fewer than the previous year's total of one hundred and twenty-seven.

The main points in disputes were: (a) Increase in salaries and wages and revision of wages; (b) Re-instatement of workers alleged to have been unjustifiably terminated or dismissed from the service; (c) Removal of management's representative; (d) Provision of medical facilities.

Officers of the Ministry of Labour intervened in all the disputes. Eighty-seven of the disputes were amicably resolved through the intervention of Labour Officers. Two were unconditionally withdrawn, and five were settled by independent efforts of the parties, while ten were pending settlement at the end of the period.

Internal and External Publicity

O.2. **Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku** asked the Minister of Information, what efforts he is making to give the maximum

publicity to Nigeria and its leaders both within and outside the country, particularly among school children throughout the Federation.

The Minister of Information (Hon. T. O. S. Benson) : There are three media available for maximum publicity of Nigeria and its leaders outside the country: (1) Magazines and publications; (2) Nigerian Missions Overseas and (3) Broadcasting: N.B.C. External Service.

The Information Division of the Ministry is responsible for producing magazines and various pamphlets, booklets, wall charts and handouts. *Federal Nigeria*, a monthly periodical, which reviews progress and development in the Federation is given wide circulation in centres—Lagos, London and New York. This is the backbone of our direct publicity to inform overseas readers about the Federation.

There is also a twice-weekly summary of news called *News from Nigeria* which circulates on a more limited scale to Editors, Students and Businessmen, who use it as background in the preparation of news bulletins, information, lectures and for local circulation in their own areas and languages. These two basic publications are supplemented by a wide range of general booklets, pamphlets and folders produced by the Information Division which are supplied to Nigerian Overseas Missions, Travel Agencies, Institutions, and individual enquirers in all parts of the world.

It is hoped to increase the circulation of *Federal Nigeria* in response to public demand and to undertake the production of this and other publications in languages other than English.

A recent edition of the *Nigeria* magazine was published in French and was widely circulated in French-speaking countries.

All productions of the Information Division—Films, Photos, Booklets, Wall Charts, Brochures—are promptly despatched to Nigerian Missions Overseas and for local circulation. A daily cable of news is also sent to the Overseas Missions. This is based on the Press Releases issued by the Information Division.

In its External Service, the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation broadcasts, for 6 hours every day, programmes in English, French and Arabic which are designed to tell the outside world about Nigeria and her activities.

With particular reference to external publicity the present decision of the Federal Government is quite clear. The Federal Ministry of Information will supply the personnel and material for Information posts in our Embassies and High Commissions; and when it is necessary to engage Publicity Agents in any particular country for any special purpose, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations will appoint such Agents after full consultation with my Ministry.

With regard to publicity for Nigeria and its leaders within the country, all the available media of information are at present being used. I am also glad to say that there is a great deal of co-operation between my Ministry and the Regional Ministries of Information.

It is my earnest hope that the Press will co-operate fully with us in this matter of external publicity for Nigeria at home and abroad.

There is the *Children's Own Paper* published by my Ministry which is freely distributed among school children and others. This deals with Nigeria and her leaders. Furthermore, cheap radio sets and transistor radios are secured for our schools and there are school broadcasts regularly on the N.B.C. programmes towards this same end.

Import Duty

O.3. Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku asked the Minister of Finance, if he will reduce the duties on imported tinned milk and other articles of essential use.

Minister of State (Chief the hon. H. Omo-Osagie): As unsweetened tinned milk is exempt from import duty, the question of reducing the duty on this commodity cannot arise. I regret that the rest of the question is too general for me to be able to give any answer. The Minister is always ready to consider representations about the rate of duty on any specific commodity.

Senator Salahu Fulani: My name is not Salihu Fulani.

The President: I thought it was Salahu Fulani until I saw it on the Order Paper as Salihu Fulani.

Senator Salahu Fulani: May I humbly request the President to kindly make the Editor to understand that I am Salahu Fulani and not Salihu Fulani.

Nigerianisation of the Police Force

O.4. Senator Salahu Fulani asked the Prime Minister, how soon the Police Force will be completely Nigerianized.

The President: The Prime Minister.

Minister of State (Mr M. A. O. Olarewaju): The 1963-64 overall officers establishment—

The Minister of Information (Hon. T. O. S. Benson): On a point of order, I do not know if hon. Olarewaju is now the Prime Minister.

Mr Olarewaju: I am here on behalf of the Prime Minister.

The 1963-64 overall officers establishment on the Force is 535. By the end of 1963 the expatriate cadre will consist of 48 permanent, pensionable and 50 contract officers. By the end of 1964 all permanent, pensionable expatriate officers will either have left or will be about to leave the Service, and contract for expatriates will only be renewed in the light of specialised requirements.

It is hoped that the present strength of Nigeria gazetted officers which is now 360 will be increased to 385 by the end of 1963.

Smuggling

O.5. Senator Salahu Fulani asked the Minister of Finance, what is the total amount in pound sterling the country loses annually through smuggling.

Minister of State (Chief the hon. H. Omo-Osagie): The Senator will appreciate that it is not possible to give a precise answer to his question. The Board of Customs and Excise estimates, however, that the annual loss of revenue due to smuggling is of the order of three and a half million pounds, of which at present only a small proportion is recovered. As I am sure the Senator is aware, the Minister of Finance is pressing forward with new measures to suppress smuggling.

West African Currency Board Coin

O.6. Senator Salahu Fulani asked the Minister of Finance, whether he is aware that most people in the rural areas still find it difficult to exchange old coins for new ones, and if he will extend the period of exchange of these coins.

Chief the hon. H. Omo-Osagie : There is no evidence to suggest that there is any significant amount of West African Currency Board coin still in the hands of the public. As a result of the widespread publicity undertaken by the Central Bank, all but £200,000 of the £20.4 million of old coin in circulation when the Nigerian currency was introduced in July 1959 had been withdrawn from circulation by the end of December 1962, when the free exchange facility for the old coin ended.

Moreover, the Federal Government made arrangements whereby the old coin could be used for a further three months, until 31st March, 1963, for the payment of taxes to local and regional authorities. Even now, the old coin is not valueless, for it can be exchanged at banks on payment of a small commission.

The Minister is satisfied, and I am sure the Senator will agree that the public has been given ample opportunity to exchange the old coin, and he does not, therefore, propose to extend again the period of free exchange.

Electricity for Umuahia-Ibeku

O.7. Senator A. E. Ukattah asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether in view of the many industries now being established at Umuahia-Ibeku he will advise the E.C.N. to install an electric plant as a temporary measure until the new 33kv. Bulk Supply of Transmission line has been commissioned.

The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Yusuff Maitama Sule) : Work on the 33kv. transmission line between Aba and Umuahia has been commenced and the contract completion date is end of September 1963.

It is not anticipated that any difficulty will arise in meeting this date.

O.8. Senator A. E. Ukattah asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether in view of the many industries now being established at Umuahia-Ibeku he will advise the E.C.N. to install an electric plant as a temporary measure until the new 33kv. Bulk Supply Transmission line has been commissioned.

The Minister of Mines and Power : To meet the growing industrial needs of the Umuahia area another generating plant is now being installed in the existing power station.

This additional plant, which will be commissioned by the end of May 1963 will double the present power station capacity.

Police Women

O.9. Senator A. E. Ukattah asked the Prime Minister, how soon will women police be posted to Umuahia-Ibeku.

Minister of State (Hon. M. A. O. Olarewaju) : There are 31 police women in Eastern Nigeria and posting is arranged by the Commissioner of Police, Eastern Nigeria.

Police Quarters

O.10. Senator H. N. Udoh asked the Prime Minister, if he will state how he intends to solve the question of shortage of quarters for the Nigeria policemen throughout the Federation.

Hon. Olarewaju : The Government is well aware of the shortage of housing for Nigeria policemen throughout the Federation. In the Capital Works Programme for 1963-64, first priority is being given to the rank and file. The supply of quarters to all members of the Force is governed solely by the amount of money available for capital development.

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku : Will the hon. Minister assure this House that contracts for the building of these quarters when given out will be awarded to Nigerians.

Hon. Olarewaju : I am not here to represent the Minister of Works, but the Minister of Works always gives out contracts to all suitable contractors.

Transport

O.11. Senator H. N. Udoh asked the Minister of Transport, what plans he has for making the Enyong, Ikpa, Ikang and Awa inland waterways navigable all the year round.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : My plan is to clear the Enyong, Ikpa, Ikang and Awa rivers for perennial navigation as soon as the necessary staff become available.

Recruitment into the Army

O.12. Senator H. N. Udoh asked the Minister of Defence, how many men have been recruited into the Army from each Region since October 1960.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari): It will not be in the public interest to divulge the information sought in the question, but this can be given to the Senator if he cares to call at the office of the Minister of Defence.

Works and Surveys

*O.13. **Senator Dahlton O. Asemota** asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will state how much the Government intends to spend on road projects throughout the country during the fiscal year 1963-64.

The Minister of Establishments (Hon. J. C. Obande): The Federal Government is going to spend £9,437,000 on road projects throughout the Federation in 1963-64.

Senator Salahu Fulani: Could the Minister tell this House how much of this sum will be spent on the roads in the Regions?

The President: The hon. Minister requires notice of that Question.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

TANGANYIKA REPUBLIC BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations (Hon. Jaja Wachuku): I beg to move, That the Bill entitled, Tanganyika Republic Bill be read a Second time.

As has been stated in the explanatory note, this Bill is intended to secure the operation of Nigerian Law in relation to Tanganyika, if not affected by the changed status of Tanganyika from a Dominion to a Republic within the Commonwealth. As Senators will remember, on the 9th December, 1962, Tanganyika became a Republic. All that this Bill is asking for is that all Nigerian laws which were applicable to Tanganyika when it had the status of a Dominion which have not been revoked should also be applicable to the changed status of the new Republic.

The Bill contains two Clauses. It is short, precise, and non-contentious. Therefore I will not delay the Senate in making the necessary speech.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Health (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time; immediately considered in Committee; reported, without Amendment; read the Third time and passed.

COMMONWEALTH CITIZENSHIP BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations (Hon. Jaja Wachuku): I beg to move, That the Bill entitled Commonwealth Citizenship Bill be read a Second time.

This Bill provides that a citizen of any of the countries mentioned in the Schedule (which attained independence since the Constitution of the Federation came into force) shall have the status of a commonwealth citizen in accordance with section 13 of the Constitution.

Now it may be useful to refresh the memories of Senators if I read the relevant section of the Constitution so that we may be clear in our minds what the Bill is trying to do. Section 13 of the Nigerian Constitutional Order in Council—Legal Notice 159 of 1960 reads as follows:—

“(1) Every person who under this Constitution or any Act of Parliament is a citizen of Nigeria or under any enactment for the time being in force in any country to which this section applies is a citizen of that country shall, by virtue of that citizenship have the status of a Commonwealth citizen.

(2) Every person who is a British subject without citizenship under the British Nationality Act, 1948, or who continues to be a British subject under section 2 of that Act shall by virtue of that status have the status of a Commonwealth citizen.

(3) The countries to which this section applies are the United Kingdom and Colonies Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the Union of South Africa”.

(As all Senators know by the effort of Nigeria and other Commonwealth countries, the Union of South Africa had been expelled from the Commonwealth).

“India, Pakistan, the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, Ceylon, Ghana, the Federation of Malaya, the State of Singapore and such other countries as may be prescribed by Parliament”.

[MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS]

As Senators will note, subsection (3) refers to the United Kingdom and Colonies. Since this Constitution was passed and as we all know, a number of countries that were either colonies or protectorates have become independent. You will therefore see in the Schedule to this Bill a number of the countries enlisted.—

Sierra Leone—27th April, 1961.

Tanganyika—9th December, 1961.

Jamaica—6th August, 1962.

Trinidad and Tobago—31st August, 1962.

Uganda—9th October, 1962.

This Bill is therefore saying that the provisions of section 13 of the Constitution should be applicable to these countries and that the privileges of a Commonwealth citizenship should be conferred on the citizens of these countries.

Like the previous Bill, this Bill is quite clear, precise and non-controversial, and I hope that it will have easy passing in this House.

The Minister of Health (Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi) : I beg to second.

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku : The Bill by itself is welcome but the root of the problem is this question of Commonwealth membership. It is said that advantages and privileges will be enjoyed by members of the Commonwealth and we know very well that Nigeria is a member of the Commonwealth. By right we became a member of the Commonwealth when we were a colony under Great Britain and it was our pleasure to continue being a member when we attained independence. Now events have taken place in Africa and we have to be assured of the real advantages and privileges we are to enjoy as a member of the Commonwealth.

The mother of the Commonwealth is now thinking that in view of the fact that most of her children are now of age and are fully mature, there must be a change of attitude towards these children. In this connection we all can see the attempt of the mother of the Commonwealth to alter the Fugitive Offenders Act purposely to suit certain matters affecting this country. We must therefore keep very close watch. To be precise, I am referring to

the fact that Britain is trying to change its Fugitive Offenders Act because that country knows that we are a member of the Commonwealth. It is true, but we have our sovereign status, and I wonder whether it should be necessary for us to be treated in the same way foreign nationalities are treated. If they are thinking on that line, we should also think of our reactions as to whether we should continue to be a member of that so-called Commonwealth.

As a matter of fact it is just something we know of by name. If we are to continue our membership, the advantages and privileges must be defined and understood by all. I do not think that we are really enjoying any privileges or advantages. What I want to stress is that these countries listed on this Bill are more or less African countries like our country and I should have been very happy if we had accorded them some sort of status enjoyable by a community of African countries, rather than putting them in a community of people among whom we do not know what our position is.

I think the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations must now be thinking fast as to what should be the attitude of Nigeria particularly now that Britain is thinking of changing her mind as to the position of colonies which have attained independence.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Senator J. K. Nzerem : I do not think there is much one can quarrel with in this Bill. All along we are assured that we are to accept it on the basis of reciprocity. If we accord people from these newly independent African nations the honour to be regarded as Commonwealth citizens, and citizens of Nigeria for that matter, we, Nigerians, should be so treated by them. I remember, I think it was last year or year before last, that our Governor from the Eastern Region was slighted in a Commonwealth country. If we have to accord people from other parts of the Commonwealth the right of citizenship in this country, we expect that this should be accorded us in their own countries. That is all that I want the Minister to assure us. Other than that, I do not think that we should oppose this Bill.

Senator Abdul Salami Yusufu : Before I comment on the Bill before the House, I should seize this opportunity to say something in connection with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations. I have heard a great deal about the hon. Minister in the person of Mr Jaja Wachuku long before this time. I wish to seize this opportunity to congratulate the Minister on his ability in dealing with our foreign affairs. In fact, I have heard of his ability and efficiency in all fields. He is quite suitable for this post. There is no doubt that whatever he does will receive our support.

I do not quarrel with this Bill, whose purpose is a change of name from colonial status to an independent status. We do not have to rush into our goal, we have to go gradually. We should tackle our issue in a friendly manner rather than using force or threats against the Head of the Commonwealth. Nevertheless, we have a lot on this issue, so, I shall advise that in any matter which arises between us and the Commonwealth, especially the Head of the Commonwealth, we should be very careful in our approach so as not to cause any rift among Commonwealth Nations.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations (Hon. Jaja Wachuku): I am grateful to Senators for the comment they have made. I am also most happy for the appreciations they have shown on the effort we have been making since we have been charged with the responsibility of conducting the foreign affairs and commonwealth relations affairs of this country. This will strengthen us, knowing that when we go in the name of Nigeria we do have more mature citizens who appreciate what we are trying to do behind them.

Few comments have been made which I think I should do a little to enlighten this House about. Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku made reference to the Fugitive Offenders Act. The Act applies to members of a unit—when the colonies and non-self-governing territories were said to be part of the Mother Country. But those who were arguing said, "Well, these Commonwealth countries are independent, equal in status, in no way

subordinate one to another in their internal and external affairs, and there is no difference between them and the foreign countries, and if citizens of foreign countries cannot be proceeded against by using that Act, why should citizens of commonwealth countries that are equal in status." In fact, the Commonwealth has no constitution, no regulation; the member countries are everything, except this headship by the Queen. That is no principle. As long as we have not become a Republic, the Crown is still the Head of our State and, therefore, that law is applicable. What is applicable to people who do not recognise it should also be applicable. Things have changed and therefore the law should be amended. But whether they like it or not, the law is there. Until it is amended, the full force of the law must be applied, so that one cannot get out of the legal vision.

The Commonwealth has evolved from Dominion status. Canada was first, then Australia, New Zealand, South Africa. These are members of the same tribe, the same racial group. But now, with the extension of the British Empire, you have colonies and then protectorates which were, for the purpose of subjugation, called colonies which, in fact, were not colonies. It is all because lawyers know that this country, other than Lagos, was a protectorate—we were not subject of the Queen: we were protected persons. It was after our independence when this whole set-up was made that we actually became citizens owing allegiance to the Queen, as the case may be. Prior to that, we could not. These changes have taken place, and now you have not only people of the same racial stock within that organisation. Areas that were formerly colonies and protectorates and of different racial stock have become independent, and due to national sentiment and racial pride they said that they were not going to accept the position of Dominion, as Canada or Australia or New Zealand or South Africa. We are distinct people, we want now to be a Republic, and then we will have our own Head of State and everything, not only in theory but in fact. So that when we say equal in status, in no way subordinate, we have our Head of State and Head of Government in practice. That is why we have the evolution into India becoming a republic with its own President and so on. We also have the Ghana Republic, the Tanganyika Republic and now our own people are

[MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS]
agitating that we must also become a republic to demonstrate this distinctiveness. We are not subordinate to this particular racial group.

But then the logical conclusion would have been complete breaking away, having no more relation; a foreign entity like America or the Soviet Union or China as the case of may be. But that is where the British always beat other European countries. They have a knack of making a compromise at the strategic moment. They have calculated what benefit will accrue to them by having these previous colonial countries still in the group and yet having their full stature. The Queen in the Commonwealth in respect of that body is no longer Queen of a particular area at the moment we become a republic, so that particular sentiments and susceptibilities will not be hurt. The Queen because Head of the Commonwealth.

Senators will notice that it is no longer called the British Commonwealth. I remember when we went to India for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association meeting a Canadian delegate made the mistake of calling it the British Commonwealth and the people shouted him down. They said it was not the British Commonwealth but "The Commonwealth". So, we do not hear much of British about it, and this shows the evolution in the whole.

We discussed the question of the benefits. There are benefits to be derived. Although there is no constitution as one Senator said, there is this spirit of mutual help among the Members. We hear about the Commonwealth Economic Conference, the Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme, Commonwealth Technical Assistance Scheme and of so many other things. In the last war, when England was on the verge of being overwhelmed by Germany we saw that sentimental attachment. All rallied round her and they were able to bring America in and so were able to ward off the enemy.

This is also unique experiment on inter-racial community of independent states. You need to attend the Conference of the Prime Ministers of the Commonwealth and listen to them speaking frankly to one another. You hear very frank statements and yet after the Conference everybody goes back and feels at home just like what we do here in the Senate or in the House of Representatives. We get

hold of whoever we think we should tell one or two things and after that go to the Foyer of the House to have some tea or coffee. There is fraternal spirit, and that is peculiarly so with the lawyers. Lawyers fight themselves tooth and nail but as soon as they get out of court, they jump into the same car and drive away.

A Senator: Is there this unity among lawyers?

The Minister of Foreign Affairs: I hope so. They have been trying to unite; we have enough evidence. The unity you will find among the lawyers and Members of the Bar Association is not exactly, may be similar, to it. I have tried to give an indication of the type of thing that happens. This is not the place for a long dissertation about that.

I can assure Senator Nzerem who made the point about the question of reciprocity that there is this racial factor in international politics and international usage. You may be citizens of the same state. Take, for example, the United States. The Afro-Americans, the white Americans, the Japanese or Indian Americans—they are within the same territory and citizens of the same state but the tendency in human beings in society is to discriminate. Those who are in a position of control tend to discriminate against others.

Particularly American history shows that at one time, these people were the descendants of the British along the French; the Italians and other people were dispised. Then as time went on, the Germans and some others gained in stature either in the field of legislation or in business or various enterprises, and then they joined the establishment. Gradually, the Irish, with whom they joked and called stage Irishmen because they were connected with the stage, entertainment and so on, joined and to-day they have produced the President. Now that they have grown in stature they have been accepted in the establishment. The Italians have not been completely absorbed, but they are all there, and they have used the arts and the renaissance in Italy to build their society. Similarly, you find the Puerto Ricans and others.

This is not peculiar to us. We experience that. In England, they have class distinction based on various factors. I remember when

the present Governor of the East was a medical doctor and a church leader, he visited Rhodesia and was discriminated against there. It is this perennial problem of white settlers in Africa who have acquired political and economic power and have built a kind of wall around themselves, trying to dominate the indigenous societies that we have to face. The psychological element is there. They fear the majority. They fear that what people like Cecil Rhodes and others have done among the Matabeles and the Manshomas, the destruction that they caused there would make the children of the people to engulf them should they freely and closely associate with them. So, we have this discrimination partly due to superiority complex and at the same time due to fear. There are so many elements responsible for it.

It is not purely a matter of citizenship. There are the human factor and social factor in human relations. Naturally, with the independence of so many African nations, you find that gradually, this will wear away. You will find that Africans are now allowed where at first they were not. With so many Heads of Governments visting the United States, meeting the President, the Senators and appearing on the television, many of the Americans begin to say that these are the same as our people. It is gradually wearing away. We understand that and we are doing what we can do through political, social and cultural activities and particularly—the greatest of all—through our own achievements in our country. That is what will change the whole thing. What the new independent African countries can achieve in their own respective countries will be the decisive factor, because if they go to these places and find that after all, there is no difference, perhaps this will give them a much better idea. The prejudice will die away and perhaps our own children will not experience the same thing.

I think these are the major points that have been raised. Senator Abdul Salami Yusifu was very kind to pay some compliments to us and from the reactions of Members, I took it that he expressed your views and sentiments in respect of the work that our Ministry has been doing.

I think have dealt with the points that have been raised, and since Senators have expressed their pleasure in giving an easy passage to this Bill, I am most grateful.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

COMMONWEALTH CITIZENSHIP BILL
CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clauses 1 and 2 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Schedule.

Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku : Under the consideration of the Schedule to this Bill, I want the Minister of Foreign Affairs to assure us, just as Senator Nzerem has said, that whenever any V.I.P. who is a citizen of Nigeria goes to the places listed under the Schedule to this Bill, and indeed any place where we have an embassy or a high commission, the V.I.P. will be met on arrival at the place. Our Ambassadors or High Commissioners, as the case may be, should take a time off to meet us when we visit their stations. After all, charity begins at home. Otherwise, the Commonwealth fraternity will not be complete.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs : This question does not relate to the V.I.P.'s only. The Nigerian embassies or high commissions do recognise and give assistance to Nigerians wherever they go, and thus enhance the prestige of Nigeria. They do this provided they are informed that such and such a person or persons will be at their stations at such and such a date. But sometimes Nigerians land in a place and the embassy knows nothing about their coming there. We do not interfere with the movement of any Nigerian or we land ourselves into trouble. One cannot help somebody whose whereabouts one is not aware of. So, if Nigerians can co-operate with us, I am sure that our embassies and high commissions will always help them. There is a provision for that.

Schedule agreed to.

Bill reported, without Amendment, read the Third time and passed.

ELECTORAL (TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS)
BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari) : I rise to move—

That a Bill for an Act to revise the Electoral (Transitional Provisions) Act, 1961, and for

[MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS]
purposes connected therewith, be read a
Second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to provide for the situation which has arisen because of the nullification of the last national census. With the passing of this Bill, the Federal Government will be in a position to proceed immediately with the arrangements for the Mid-West referendum which I know is dear to the heart of Mr President himself and those of the people of the Mid-West as a whole, and also the many by-elections which are now due to be held into the House of Representatives. In accordance with the provisions of the Electoral Act of 1962, a new and up-to-date federal electoral register would have been prepared from the returns of the national census taken in May 1962. Since the provisions of the Electoral Act of 1962 cannot be met, it is proposed to revise the 1959 register which would have ceased to be valid with the passing of that Act.

As Senators are also aware in connection with the Mid-West referendum, subsection (5) of section 4 of the Constitution of the Federation provides that persons entitled to vote at the referendum shall be those entitled to vote at a federal election in any constituency within the affected area. As I have already stated, in view of the nullification of the national census taken in May 1962, the only person entitled to vote at the Mid-West referendum would be those whose names appear on the existing federal electoral register. The by-elections now due to the House of Representatives would also have to be held on the basis of the 1959 federal electoral register.

In conclusion, I would like to assure Senators, as I have already assured the Members of the Lower House, that it is not intended to use the 1959 electoral register for the purposes of the forthcoming general elections. It is hoped that by that time, the new census figures will have been ready, in which case the new Electoral Act, 1962, will come into force and a new federal electoral register prepared on the basis of the census return.

This is a straightforward Bill which, I am sure, Senators will welcome, particularly those from the Mid-West.

I beg]to move.

The Minister of Health (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): I beg to second.

Senator Chief (Mrs) Wuraola A. Esan: In view of the announcement made by the Prime Minister some time ago, that the 1962 census had been nullified, one can easily assume that the 1959 electoral register still operates. Therefore, we are not surprised that this Bill is brought before us to-day. I do welcome it. But I have just one observation to make.

More than £1 million have been spent on the last census. A further £1 million is going to be spent again. It is natural to suppose that the benefits to be derived from this expenditure will be enjoyed by all—men and women—in Nigeria to-day. But what will happen to our Northern sisters after so much money has been spent on census is not clear. As they are part and parcel of Nigeria, may I now advise the Northern Parliament, through this House, that Northern women should at this time be considered. If the Government must spend the money of the nation on census, everybody including women should reap the benefit that will be derived. I am now warning the Northern Government to take great care that they do not allow women to rise against any constitutional order or law of this country, because when women get up to demand something they know how to get those things, and they will get them.

Now I would like to say that if and when the new census figures are released—

The President: I do not usually like to interrupt Senators, but obviously what Senator Mrs Wuraola Esan is saying is not relevant to the subject of the debate.

Senator Mrs Esan: I am not going to dwell on the census any longer, but I only would like to sound a note of warning. The Northern Regional Government should either allow the women of the North their right of enfranchisement or refuse to count them for the purpose of the next census.

Senator Dahlton Asemota: I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Prime Minister, his Cabinet Ministers, the Regional Premiers and the Regional Legislators for the part they have all played in the creation of the Mid-West State.

This Bill is welcome and I hope it will be our last hurdle in creating the new State. I think the Minister of Internal Affairs made it clear that the people to vote on the referendum are those whose names appear on the 1959 Register. This is fair enough, but the Minister should also have made arrangements to allow for people who were not of age in 1959 but who are now of age in 1963. He should also have taken into account that from 1959 to date some of those who may have voted during the last election may have died. I think that some sort of compensatory arrangement should have been made in this connection.

Whatever happens we hope to get the required *percentage* because it can be reasonably assumed that thirty *per cent* of the inhabitants could not have all died since 1959; but whatever is the case I just mentioned this to point out that Government ought to have really made some allowance for any gap. Be that as it may, I think it is now left to the Mid-Westerners to determine their own fate.

As I said earlier the demand for the creation of the new State was not motivated by any ill-feelings towards a political party or towards a set of people for that matter. It was the genuine desire of a people who considered themselves a distinct tribe—distinct from other tribes—and who were very anxious to be given the opportunity to take care of their own affairs and regain the independent position which they had enjoyed before the advent of European civilisation.

The President : If the Senator goes on discussing the issue of the Mid-West, it will be irrelevant. One of the things that this Bill seeks to do is to revise the Electoral Register to enable the referendum to be conducted on the basis of the Register. If the Senator concentrates on the Mid-West question then I shall have no alternative but to rufe him out of order.

Senator Asemota : I do not think I have anything to add after listening to what the President has said, but may I say that I think in expressing appreciation for something that had been done it will be of interest to delve a little bit into the background of the matter.

The President : I agree with you, but it could be overdone. There is plenty of time at your disposal to confine yourself to the Bill.

Senator Asemota : The President has just cut me off in the middle of my speech, but all the same I support the Bill, and as I said before a little clause allowing for eventualities should have been provided.

As everyone present in this House is aware, the people of the Mid-West are just one tribe—something of a monolithic bloc. They did not immigrate from any other part of the country, rather they migrated to other places like Onitsha, Lagos, *et cetera*. I am most grateful to the Government for bringing up this Electoral Bill.

I beg to support.

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale : This is a straight-forward Bill, and I support it wholeheartedly. I have only one observation to make, and that is to clarify the point that had been raised by our only woman Senator, Chief Mrs Wuraola Esan, who incidentally represents the interest of Nigerian women in this House. In the course of her speech the Senator talked about Northern women not being allowed to take part in elections. I must say that while the people of the North are moving up, however slowly, they are foresighted people who look into things very carefully before they act. Active consideration is being given to the question of allowing the women to vote and when the time is ripe for it, action will accordingly be taken. This does not mean that our women in the North have been neglected; they are part of us and their plight is being looked into.

I beg to support.

Senator Salahu Fulani : I had wanted to fall in line with what the last speaker, Senator Bale, said, but I really do not intend to pick a quarrel with Senator Mrs Esan. I have observed that whenever the question of the census comes up she is always up against the North. The enfranchisement of women is entirely a matter for the Northerners to decide. We are not lagging behind. We do not want to be henpecked husbands.

We are doing everything possible to bring up our women and it could be seen that we have encouraged our girls to take active interest in all forms of education in the North, and there is no doubt that this will go a long way to making our women fit into all walks of life.

[SENATOR SALAHU FULANI]

As we in the North are predominantly Moslems each of us has, at least, four wives, and it will be agreed that when our women are enfranchised we shall out-number any other party in the House.

I beg to support.

Senator Chief A. O. Fagbenro-Beyioku : This Bill is welcome, the main purport of which is to revise the law to allow for the referendum in the Mid-West and for certain by-elections.

According to the Minister the Electoral Register used in 1959 will again be used, and in every probability the procedures adopted at the general election of 1959 will again be adopted. This House is very happy because Members of this House have watched with interest the preparation for the referendum in the Mid-West.

But the Minister or the Prime Minister has a very great obligation, and that is, that we shall only be too pleased to see that when this Law is brought into effect and final arrangements made for the referendum in the Mid-West or for the forthcoming by-elections to the House of Representatives, sufficient safeguards shall be taken to avoid loss of life at such referendum and by-elections. Sufficient safeguard should also be taken to ensure that no acts of lawlessness, thuggery or hooliganism are introduced into what otherwise should be a very peaceful referendum and peaceful by-elections.

In this connection I am sure the leaders of the Mid-West who are entirely connected with the forthcoming referendum, with due deference to our own President in his capacity as the leader of the Mid-West Movement, would bear in mind that what they have before them is not the question of a particular party going to the polls to win victory over another party but to ensure that the yearnings of the people of that particular area are in accord with what the leaders of the Mid-West have been craving for.

On this question of a by-election, I think what the electorate in the areas affected are primarily concerned with is to have somebody who will represent their interest in the Legislature, not any particular group of person or any particular party trying to demonstrate its power and its ability to kill or wound people.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Senator H. O. Abaagu : I do not see any reason why we still have to hold a referendum in the Mid-West. I am of the opinion that everybody is in favour of the creation of a new state. All the political parties have agreed on this point and I think we should regard these political parties, the N.C.N.C., the Action Group and the N.P.C., as representing all shades of opinion in the area. There is scarcely anyone in the area who does not belong to one or other of these political parties and since they have all agreed to create the State, I do not see any necessity for holding a referendum in compliance with the Constitution. After all, we made the Constitution, the constitution has not made us.

I, therefore, have to suggest that when revising our Constitution we should take account of the point that when there is general agreement in any particular place, over any particular issue, there should be no need for holding any referendum over such an issue. Such a course will definitely save us time and money.

It is time we satisfied the people of the Mid-West. In fact, the people of the Mid-West are the only people in the Federation with a genuine demand for the creation of a State. There is no other set or group of people in Nigeria who have actually or generally asked for the creation of any state.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari): I must thank Senators for their contribution in welcoming this very important Bill. It appears to me that Senators are anxious that we should see to it that the aspirations of the people of the Mid-West are fulfilled. I want to assure them that as soon as we can get everything ready—and this is one of the measures by which we want to speed things up—arrangements will be made to bring the fourth Region of Nigeria into being. (*Hear, hear*).

I understand the anxiety of Senators, particularly, Senator Abaagu who suggested that there should have been no referendum. This shows the unanimity of the people in the Mid-West and of the whole Federation in the belief that the creation of the Mid-West Region is overdue. As the Senator has rightly pointed out, it is our Constitution which provides for that and I think it is wise that there should be a referendum not for the

creation of the Mid-West only but in order to confirm that when the Constitution was being prepared, those who worked at it knew that there would be some obstacles. They had to provide for means whereby it should be assured beyond any shadow of doubt that people who aspire for the creation of any state really are doing so with all sincerity and without undue pressure from small groups in other places who want to create all sorts of states without making sure that their people really support such states.

The only means whereby we can make sure that the people support the creation of a state is by holding a referendum. We believe that the forthcoming referendum in the Mid-West will really show that the leaders of the Mid-West who have been agitating for the creation of their own Region are really speaking the minds of their people. If the same test is applied elsewhere, the result may be different and that is why idea of a referendum is very important and essential.

I need not reply to the point made by Senator Mrs Wuraola Ēsan because Senators from the North have already said something concerning the position of women in the Northern Region. After all, I am here to reply on behalf of the Federal Government and not on behalf of the N.P.C.

The Bill before us seeks to revise the Electoral Register for the Mid-West referendum which will include women in this case, and for the several by-elections in the country to the House of Representatives. I think there are about six by-elections in all, some of them from the East, the West, the North and I think from the Mid-West as well. It is only proper that during the life of the other House, the procedure which was used in electing the Members who are now in the House should also be used for these by-elections into the same House.

Senator Asemota spoke about making provision—if I heard him well—for the dead. I do not see how we can do that but we can of course make provision for the living and the provision we are making is to revise the Federal Electoral Register and to allow those who are entitled to vote in the Federal Election to vote, and also to cast their votes in the forthcoming referendum. The reason why we cannot revise the Electoral Register to include those who are not now included is that

we want the creation of the State to come as soon as it can and as soon as arrangements can be finalised. To revise the Register now will take some time. In fact, if we were to revise the Register to include those who are not now included, it would take another year or at least six months to complete. And I am sure that Senator Asemota and other Members from the Mid-West will not welcome any delay in holding the referendum.

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : No.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku advised that we should provide safeguards against lawlessness. This is a matter, in the first instance, for the leaders, as he has rightly said. The leaders of all the political parties in the Mid-West have agreed that there should be a State and I do not see any reason why there should be any trouble. In case there is any doubt the Police are there and they have already been alerted that they should provide strict coverage and protection to all the people concerned in the referendum, and I do not see the possibility of any trouble anywhere. Everybody is agreed that this is something which is most desirable and should be carried out in peace and concord.

I think I have covered the points made by Senators and I thank them all for their contributions.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time ; immediately considered in Committee ; reported, without Amendment ; read the Third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT

The Minister of Health (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): I move that the Senate do now adjourn till tomorrow.

Senators would see on the Order Paper that we have a large number of Bills, about twelve of them, listed for to-day. We have now taken three of them. I think when Senators looked into their pigeon holes this morning they noticed that these Bills had just been put in there, and, as a result, we would like to give Senators some time to study them, and at the same time, to ensure that we do have some business to transact tomorrow, because all the Bills which the Senate has to debate between now and Monday have been listed for to-day

[MINISTER OF HEALTH]

These are the Bills which have passed through the House of Representatives and which are now ready to be taken up by the Senate.

We shall not, therefore, proceed now with the rest of the Business for to-day, as we hope to have some of them for tomorrow and, perhaps, a few more for Friday. The Appropriation Bill will not be ready for the Senate until Tuesday. That is the more reason why we should take our time over these measures and, at the same time, give Senators the chance to acquaint themselves with the provisions of these Bills which we are going to consider.

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : I understand that there will be a visit tomorrow to Nigeria by President Sekou Toure of Guinea, and as such some of us will probably like to take the opportunity of going to the airport to see the pageantry arranged for this occasion. As the hon. Minister has said that there is not sufficient work to occupy our time till Tuesday why do we not adjourn until next tomorrow so that Senators can take the opportunity of seeing President Sekou Toure and the pageantry at the airport? This will also enable Senators conveniently to attend the Garden Party arranged for the evening. Senators will then come back the following day refreshed.

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku : We do like the arrangement made by the Government, because, by and large, it will keep us here in Lagos. But, much as we do appreciate the arrangement, we would like to face as many of our business as are ready. For instance, it is just about half past eleven now, and we are adjourning. If these Bills are not ready we shall understand that we have got to consider them between tomorrow and Monday, but I suggest that we go through them as soon as possible, because most of them will call for tough debate, especially the Fire Services Bill and others.

I do appreciate the intention of the Leader of the House that we adjourn right now and come back tomorrow, but I feel that this House would not like to give the impression that we like to do things slowly. If there are things to tackle let us tackle them when they come so that we can rise and go back home.

I associate myself, of course, with the observation made by my hon. Friend on the matter of the arrival tomorrow of the President of Guinea. If the Ministers are to be there to welcome the

President of Guinea, we should by right have precedence over them, as has been stated before, and we should be the first people to meet the President. The President should be able to see the lords of the land before seeing anybody else. We commission these Ministers. I know that most of us have not got invitations to be at the airport whereas every Minister has got an invitation to be at the airport.

We would like the Leader of the Senate to go back to the Cabinet or whoever is responsible for this arrangement to see that every Senator has a card to be at the airport, and he should also see to it that every Senator has precedence over anybody else.

The Minister of Health : I was not going to say anything about the arrangement which we have made for tomorrow because I was hoping that the President himself would announce what time we shall assemble tomorrow, and, in fact, the President has already suggested an appropriate time when the Senate would be convened here so as to allow Senators to go to the airport.

There is no question of Senators not having invitation cards for the airport. The President of Guinea is the guest of Nigeria, and, naturally, it will be expected that Senators and Members of the House of Representatives will go there to welcome him just as Members of the Cabinet are going to welcome him.

The Government has no very strong feeling as to whether we should sit tomorrow or not, and if it is the wish of the House that we should adjourn until Friday we certainly will accept that. I should move, therefore, that the day of re-convening should be on Friday.

Question proposed, That the Senate do now adjourn till Friday next.

Senator Chief A. O. Fagbenro-Beyioku : That is welcome, and we support it. But we feel that we are adjourning to afford Senators the opportunity of taking up their places at the reception for the President of Guinea who will arrive tomorrow.

When the Prime Minister of India arrived last year I got to the airport, but I had no card. But for the fact that I am a popular figure, known by everybody in Lagos, I could have been thrown out. When I got there the people at the gate asked me to present my card, but an A.S.P. quickly explained my

position to them, and they had to apologise. All Senators are not resident in Lagos, and people do not know them. If it had been in their areas people would know them as they know me here. It will be wrong for us now to say that Senators should go to the airport without a card, because I know cards are being issued for this occasion. I am sure one constable at the gate discharging his lawful duty will order an unknown Senator to join the crowd around. We want to go to this place. Therefore, we want our Leader to take care of that so that between now and tomorrow every Senator will have a card.

We agree that we should come back on Friday.

Senator Chief Z. C. Obi : All I want to point out is that the Bills to be presented here are not in our pigeon-holes. I have got only two of the twelve Bills.

Senator H. N. Udoh : I think these Bills were distributed previously.

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : I just want to emphasise the indignity and insult being given to the Senators in Lagos particularly by some of our Ministers who are supposed to be responsible for these arrangements.

I read about President Sekou Toure's visit in the papers and found a copy of the invitation to the party which His Excellency is giving at 6.30 p.m. in my pigeon-hole. If someone of the calibre of President Sekou Toure is coming to this country, I feel I should go to the airport with my camera to welcome him. That is the place where I can have a proper view of the man. If we go there, probably one of the junior police constables who, as Senator Beyioku has just said, may not know some of us, will just push us aside. This is getting too much. We say this everytime on the Floor of this Senate. Senators are given shabby treatment; we are treated in a manner that is certainly below our dignity. After all, Senators rank after the Prime Minister in this country. We come before the Ministers themselves; we should stand before the Ministers.

Minister of State (Senator the hon. Dr E. A. Esin): On a point of explanation, this matter concerns the Foreign Office very much. We took all these into consideration but the time is too short. In the first instance, the

Governor-General is currently touring the Western Region as you all know, and in the second instance, most of the Members of the House of Representatives have already left for their homes. The consideration was that we should have a Joint Session of the Houses of Parliament for this August Visitor to speak to us as Mr Nehru did, but unfortunately, that was not possible. That is the reason why Senators have not had the cards sent to them as Members of the Senate. We could fit in properly with the time.

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : On a point of explanation, we are not asking that there should be a Joint Session of Parliament to welcome President Sekou Toure. We are saying that we should be given precedence in welcoming him at the airport or wherever the Ministers will be meeting him. We are not saying that the two Houses of Parliament should be assembled for him to address. We said we would like to welcome him at the airport or at any reception in honour of President Sekou Toure. Senators should be given precedence over all other people. That was what I said.

Senator the hon. Dr E. A. Esin : Senators as they say, are the Lords of this land and it will not be dignified for Senators to be at the airport to receive President Sekou Toure at all. I think he should come to the Senate and talk to Senators. Your Minister whom you have commissioned to do this thing should naturally go to the airport. Provision has been made for every Senator to be at the reception at State House to which everyone of us has been invited.

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku : The explanation is not accepted. We have been complaining every time in this House. We are the Lords of the land and we are the people to welcome visitors to our land, so we should be there to welcome President Sekou Toure. We want to be there to welcome him. I want to be there to welcome him in an honourable way.

Dr Esin : That is not the protocol anywhere at all.

Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu : I agree with the view expressed by Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku. Once Senators are in Lagos they should be given the opportunity

[SENATOR CHIEF HUNPONU-WUSU]

of welcoming President Sekou Toure. I understand that the Lagos Town Council are arranging to welcome him with our Vice-President. I think it should be left to the President and our Vice-President to choose some of the Senators to represent the Senate. It is an opportunity for Senators who do not reside in Lagos to meet this eminent African. I am entirely in agreement with Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku who said that Senators should be given priority and not be pushed into second position in a thing like this. There are thousand and one persons who have been invited to State House for the reception of President Sekou Toure. Senators should be given their rightful place in everything.

Senator Chief P. C. Ndu : I would like to associate myself with Senators who said that Senators were not given the full honour they deserve.

This morning I was listening to the news Broadcast but there was no mention that the Upper House was to reassemble. If it is the Lower House, it would have been mentioned. I think it is time the newspaper reporters said something about the Upper House.

Senator Salahu Fulani : I want to associate myself with the expressions made by all the previous Senators. I am saying with all seriousness that this Upper House is always slighted. It is a shame for the whole country that an august visitor like Sekou Toure is visiting us here, and Senators are not given due consideration. I do not want to repeat all that has been said before, but I want to warn all our Ministers to bear in mind that Senators should be given their rightful place in all things.

Senator Chief Ezeogo Ugwuocha, Uka of Edda : I have a different complaint to make before the House this morning. It is very disgraceful to say that some people are tampering with our pigeon-holes and removing papers from them.

This morning some Senators found their copies of the Budget Speech in their pigeon-holes, but in my own case, I have not found mine. It happened the last time that we were invited to State House. My own invitation card was not found there.

Senator H. O. Abaagu : I do not know what arrangement the Government is making with regard to the visit of President Sekou Toure; particularly about his addressing a Joint Meeting of Parliament. I think one Minister mentioned it, but I did not catch him. It will be very unfortunate if the President comes to Nigeria and does not address a Joint Meeting of Parliament. When the President of Guinea comes he should be allowed to meet Members of the House of Representatives and Members of the Senate. It will be out of place if no arrangement is made for the President to address a Joint Session of Parliament or at least only the Senate. It will be very unfortunate if this is omitted.

Senator M. B. Chukwubike : I would like to say that as far back as 1960 Members of the Senate had been agitating for their rights. We did this in 1960, 1961 and 1962, and still the slight continued. I would suggest that all we have to do is to mandate our President or the Leader of the House to approach the Prime Minister about this matter and convey our feelings to him.

Senator Dr Esin : As I said before, this matter has been given consideration by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs. We discovered that the obstacle was that the Governor-General had fixed his tour and Senators know that the Governor-General will return tonight to await the President of Guinea. In the second place, most of the Members of the Lower House have already returned to their constituencies and the Prime Minister could not arrange for him to meet only the Senate. The President of Guinea stay in Nigeria will be very, very short indeed. The instruction is that all Senators should go down to the airport to meet the President of Guinea. Senators will also meet him at the Party that has been arranged.

When the Prime Minister went to the United States of America, if I remember correctly, all the Members of the American Senate did not go to the airport to receive the Prime Minister. It is not protocol. There are certain orders laid down which show how these things are done. It is never practised anywhere in the world at all. Senators will all be introduced to the President by the Governor-General at the Cocktail Party.

The Governor-General knows all Senators, but the question of meeting the President in the Houses of Parliament should not be fixed this time. The President of Guinea is coming for a very, very private and urgent matter. He is coming to see the Prime Minister and to discuss matters relating to the forthcoming Addis-Ababa Conference.

Under these circumstances, it is clear that nobody wants to slight Senators in any way at all. The complaint of the House will however be laid before the Prime Minister.

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku : We do not like these defensive speeches by our Ministers. I know they must have to do it. We would like these Ministers in the Senate, our Leader of the House, the hon. Minister of State and the other Minister of State now attending to the Pilgrims—may he return in peace, to be mindful of our position. They should not, because they were appointed Ministers, begin to speak as Ministers, and not as Senators when we want to assert our rights. They should remember that they were first Senators before they were appointed

Ministers of State. I am sure, everybody here can be appointed a Minister since Senators have been appointed Ministers. When these Ministers who were Senators hear us their colleagues trying to assert their rights and complain about insults meted to them and lack of recognition, I feel they have to be in sympathy with us and not tell us that we appear to be unreasonable. We are quite reasonable.

Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu : On a point of order, the Ministers are doing their business because they are middle men. In the House of Representatives they represent the Members of Senate and they represent the Council of Ministers in the Senate. They are justified to defend the Council of Ministers.

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku : My colleague wants to support me and he has done it in the way he understands.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Senate do now adjourn till Friday next.

Adjourned accordingly at 12 noon.

SENATE OF THE FEDERATION OF
NIGERIA

Friday, 26th April, 1963

The Senate met at 9 a.m.

(The President in the Chair)

OATH

Oath of Allegiance was administered to the following new Member—Alhaji the hon. Ibrahim Tako Galadima (Minister of State).

ORDERS OF THE DAY

IMMIGRATION BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari) : I rise to move, that a Bill for an Act to consolidate and amend the law as to immigration; to control in Nigeria certain persons, and for connected purposes, 1963, be now read a Second time.

The preparation of this Bill has afforded the Government an opportunity to bring up-to-date our present Immigration legislation.

At the moment non-Nigerians entering Nigeria are controllable under the Immigration Act and the Aliens Restriction Act. The former deals with all immigrants while the latter which is exercised through regulations applied by the Nigeria Police, deals with non-Commonwealth persons only.

A further Act, the Aliens (Deportation) Act deals with the deportation of undesirable aliens. It has been found since Independence that these laws are, in many respects, out of date. They do not reflect the status of Nigeria as an independent country and between them there is much overlapping. Government has, therefore, deemed it expedient that there should be a single comprehensive Immigration Act to replace the existing legislation and that this new act should contain all that is needed to protect the national economy and security in so far as these ends can be achieved by immigration control.

In the light of recent events, I am sure that all Senators will agree that our immigration control and procedures should be tightened up. As I have already said, it is the Government's considered opinion that both the legislation and the staff who will put such legislation into practice should be of the calibre that will protect the security of our great nation.

As Senators are aware, much progress has been made towards the complete civilianisation of the Immigration Division of my Ministry. Courses are now being organised to equip our new Immigration officers with the knowledge and experience which they will need to carry out their duties efficiently. These officers have a great responsibility in ensuring that all immigrants entering the country comply fully with the provisions of our Immigration Laws. It is also essential for them, even under the pressure of the utmost provocation, to discharge their duties with grace and courtesy. This is very important since the Immigration Controls provide our first point of contact with visitors to this country and it is essential that the impression gained at these first points of contact should be a pleasant one.

Part I of this Bill makes provision for the control of the entry, departure and examination of all persons; makes provision for certain persons to be exempt from the provisions of the Bill and for me to exempt further persons from the provisions of the Bill should I consider it desirable in the public interest. It also gives me power to prescribe the points of entry into and departure from Nigeria.

Part I of the Bill further makes provision for the appointment of officers to carry out the provisions of the Bill and sets out the powers of such officers in particular to examine passengers, to issue Residence Permits, Visiting and Transit passes and refuse admission in appropriate cases. Part I also allows provision for ministerial control of the establishment of businesses by immigrants and the control of employment of expatriates.

Part II of the Bill makes provision for certain persons to be classed as Prohibited Immigrants and to be refused entry into Nigeria, and gives me power to declare further classes of persons or individuals as Prohibited Immigrants. It also allows me to make Deportation Orders generally and, in particular, in respect of recommendations by the courts and in respect of persons whose continued stay in Nigeria is not in the interest of the country.

At this stage, I would like to draw the attention of Senators to the distinction which is currently made in respect of the deportation of Commonwealth citizens and aliens. Deportation is, at present, covered by sections 402 to

413 of the Criminal Procedure Act in respect of all non-Nigerians who are convicted of offences punishable by imprisonment without the option of a fine. As all offences under the present Immigration Legislation are punishable by imprisonment or the option of a fine these provisions of the Criminal Procedure Act do not apply to immigration offences. Under the Aliens Deportation Act, I have powers to effect the deportation of any alien under the same conditions as the Criminal Procedure Act, and in addition, where it is considered in the interest of the public that I should do so. This Part of the new Bill before Senators makes no distinction between Commonwealth subjects and aliens and all non-Nigerians will, therefore, become liable to deportation if they offend against the provisions in the new Bill.

Part II of the Bill makes provision for the control of crews of ships and aircraft in relation to their landing in Nigeria, temporary shore leave, discharge and their repatriation if left behind after the ship or aircraft has left Nigeria. This part of the Bill was previously covered by provisions of the Deserters from Ships Act.

Part IV of the Bill makes provision for the further control of immigrants after their arrival in Nigeria and for amendment or cancellation of Immigration Permits in their respect. It also allows for juveniles to be treated as exempt on entry and to be brought within the scope of the Act on attaining the age of sixteen years.

Part IV of the Bill further provides for me to enter into Visa Abolition Agreements and fix fees to be charged in connection with the issue of travel documents, visas, and other permits required under the Act. This part of the Bill also makes provision for persons who were born in Nigeria and were therefore exempt from the previous Ordinance and, who have not become citizens of Nigeria, to be brought within the scope of the present Bill.

Part IV of the Bill also makes provision for dealing with insane persons seeking to enter Nigeria and provides to prohibit the departure of Nigerian citizens in certain specific cases.

In this connection, hon. Senators will recall that in recent years, Government has been faced with the problem of repatriating some Nigerians who have been turned back from certain countries because they left our frontiers

without proper documentation or without any means of returning. Such persons will in future be prevented from leaving Nigeria, and I think it will be for their own good.

There are also other instances when it may be found to be in the public interest to bar Nigerian citizens from leaving the country.

Finally, part four of the Bill makes provision for the making of regulations to give effect to the Bill, prescribed offences under the Bill, and the penalties relating thereto, and for them to be dealt with expeditiously by the Courts.

This Bill is of great importance to this country with particular reference to our national economy. When this Bill becomes law, the conditions under which non-Nigerians enter this country for business purposes will be tightened up. It will also give legal effect to the present system of granting quotas to companies to employ expatriates in this country, and it will also introduce a system of Residence Permits for all non-Nigerians as it is, at the moment, done under the United Kingdom Immigrants Control Act.

While introducing this Bill in the Lower House, I took the opportunity of assuring all foreign investors in this country that the purpose of our Immigration Bill is not, in any way, to jeopardize their business interests. It is designed, however, to ensure that only in those categories of employment which cannot be filled adequately by Nigerian citizens and only in respect of those commercial and industrial enterprises not adequately served by Nigerians, will permission be granted for non-Nigerians to be employed or to participate. I am sure that Senators will agree that this is a reasonable step to take to guard against our national economy in so far as this can be done through Immigration Control.

This is a very important Bill, and I do hope that Senators will pass it without further discussion because the Bill has long been overdue. We have been thinking of revising the Immigration law, and this is an opportunity to do so in the best interest of our country.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Health (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): I beg to second.

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba: This is a very welcome Bill. Nigeria is a very hospi-

[SENATOR ALHAJI ABUBAKAR GARBA]
table country, and her doors are wide open to foreigners who come here with good intention either for their own business interest or otherwise. The more people from outside with business interest we can get to visit Nigeria and the more Nigerians we can get to visit other countries the better. Our Government, with the power of protecting our national economy and security, should not hesitate to refuse entry into Nigeria or restrict or detain or even deport any undesirable alien.

Finally, I would like to know from the Minister of Internal Affairs in which countries Nigerians can reside without being officially granted political asylum. In other words, where can Nigerians be regarded as native foreigners and where, as such, will they not be affected by Immigration Regulations relating to foreigners?

I beg to support.

9.25 a.m.

Senator J. K. Nzerem : I would like to begin by congratulating the Minister of Internal Affairs and the Government of the Federation for introducing this Bill. Nigeria became a sovereign nation over two years ago, and many people have expressed surprise that she still adheres to the archaic Immigration laws that operated in Nigeria before she became independent. Now that the Government has come forward with a Bill of this nature, I think it is in our interest that we should support the Government.

There are many aspects of the Bill about which one would like to know more. For instance, in Nigeria to-day, we find that it is extremely difficult for honest Nigerian citizens to get a passport to leave the country. I do not know whether it is the officials that make things difficult for honest Nigerians who want to go abroad or the nature of the law that is in existence. I refer in particular to Nigerians who want to go to the United Kingdom. I know of a young man who had got admission into a university; but for one reason or another, his passport was delayed for months and months. I think in this law, it should be made easy for students, particularly those travelling, to get their passports within a week. I do not see what difficulties there are in the way.

There is another point about the Immigration law in Nigeria. In the past, either due to negligence or corruption people have entered

this country, and Nigerians have left this country when they should not have left. I am glad that the Minister has said that the law is going to be tightened up. It is most desirable that it should be, because the security of the nation is at stake if we allow undesirable aliens to enter this country at will and allow Nigerians to go away from Nigeria to begin to subvert this country elsewhere. I think the law should be made so stringent that it will be impossible for any undesirable aliens or any Nigerians with disreputable character to leave the country and loaf about in other countries.

There is another thing about this law to which I would like to refer. We are talking so much about African unity and African solidarity. I think the law should be made a little less rigid in the case of people wanting to go to other African countries. As a matter of fact there should be an understanding between all African countries so that travelling from Nigeria to any part of Africa should be free. If we begin to communicate with other African nations and exchange views with them then the idea of African unity and African solidarity will become an accomplished fact.

I again congratulate the Minister for introducing this Bill which people have looked forward to since we became independent. We should support it and ask the Government to do everything possible, everything in its power, to see that undesirable aliens do not enter into this country, and that Nigerians who are prepared to subvert this country for a mess of pottage are not allowed to depart.

I beg to support.

9.22 a.m.

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku : This Bill is welcome. It only requires some minor observations.

As we all know, our past and present immigration procedures were prepared for us by our former colonial masters. I want to refer to those Nigerians abroad many of whom find it very difficult to renew their passports, and some find it difficult even to get a passport to come back home. I met many of such people whenever I was abroad, and it appears that nothing can be done. I feel that the new Immigration Law will make it possible to ameliorate the sufferings and the hardship imposed upon those Nigerians who are abroad.

Nigerians in other parts of the world who become destitute should not be allowed to wander about and parade themselves as specimens from Nigeria in any foreign land. As soon as it becomes known to any Nigerian embassy or high commission in those areas such Nigerians should be aided or supported to return, or repatriated to this country. We have read of cases of people becoming destitute. When they approach the high commission or Embassy as the case may be all they are told is that correspondence is going on, and the state of those Nigerians continues to grow worse.

We do agree that we have got to restrict the movement of aliens entering this country. It must of necessity be done. But at the same time it is equally incumbent upon us to make sure that the type of Nigerians we have in foreign lands are Nigerians who can safely and honourably carry the flag of this country. And I am sure that the hon. Minister of Internal Affairs, or the Government for that matter, will like to get in touch with our High Commissions and Embassies to find out if there is any destitute Nigerian in their areas of jurisdiction. For instance, when I was in Great Britain some time ago I saw Nigerians who would like to come home, but had no money. These people did approach the High Commissioner there and the answer they got was, "Well, we will write you". I must say that we must not leave them there until they take to foul practices and questionable means of livelihood. We must bring them back home and take care of them when they get back here.

Some people may argue that some of these people left this country without the knowledge of the Government and that it was not this country that sent them there. Well, I do not think that there is any crime in being ambitious. It is only when ambition becomes inordinate that it is a crime. Any young man whose blood is fired in the ambition to build up himself and become somebody to serve his country and himself, can take the risk to go out. When he reaches his destination he may find that age does not supply the promises of youth and so finds himself in a difficult position. We must not simply because the Government did not send him there leave him to roam the streets of Germany, France or Britain so that people will say, "This is a Nigerian going in

rag in a state of want." I would like the Minister to take note of that.

Again, in our attempt to make facilities rigid for aliens entering this country I want us to be mindful of our obligation to other struggling Africans. Nigeria has a part to play in the general and final, I repeat, final emancipation of Africa. Every corner in Africa, every spot in Africa to-day, is looking up to Nigeria. Wherever there are African nationalists struggling for such emancipation and having difficulties in dealing with people who continue to be their overlords, and they find their way into Nigeria to continue their honest and constitutional approach towards the fight for independence, I feel that our law must not make it impossible for them to do so. We must not only accommodate them, we must also help them because it is only when every country in Africa is free that we Nigerians ourselves can consider ourselves free.

Mr President, the Bill is very welcome. But I do not think the intention of the Bill is to sacrifice efficiency on the altar of Nigerianisation. As the hon. Minister has ably proposed, we shall continue to have those aliens who come here with the sole intention to help us. We shall continue to have those who are capable and who are experts provided they are prepared to respect the flag of this country. There are many aliens in this country who have no right to be here. They came here simply because they wanted to find means of livelihood. I think that the law should be able to take care of such people. The earlier they go the better it will be for all of us.

So, I support the Bill and congratulate the Government on the introduction of the Bill.

9.30 a.m.

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale : I thank the hon. Minister of Internal Affairs for revising the old Act through this Bill, thus making it accord with the time. It is a straightforward Bill, but I have got just a few points to make and which I would like the hon. Minister to look into. The difficulty which I can see in connection with this Bill and which I regard as a very important part of it is the implementation of this proposed Act.

The sort of people who are seen roaming about in foreign lands are those who had no formulated plans but they are there through

[SENATOR ALHAJI ABUBAKAR BALE]
 one means or the other. As regards those aliens coming into this country I want to advise that before approval is given for their entry, their character and their business must be looked into and properly checked before they are allowed entry into this country. It is not unlikely that any of such aliens wishing to come in might say that he has got such and such a business to transact or that he has sufficient money on which to live, but such things should not be taken for granted.

I think, in this instance, this Bill stands to guard against foreigners who, after being allowed in, change their declared intention. This set of people must be dealt with because they will be going contrary to what the law is intended to do, and at the same time, they will be going against their declaration on which basis approval had been given for them to enter the country.

Our Embassies and High Commissions should be told to look into the condition under which our people residing abroad live. They must find out by what means they left their own home country, who sent them, and whether or not they are engaged in any good means of livelihood. For instance, we have been asked to assist one of our boys who had left this country for overseas without the prior knowledge of anyone. The question that has arisen is that we did not know when he left this country or how he managed to leave this country. Things of this kind must be looked into.

If our people can sneak away from this country without being in possession of official document or passport properly endorsed, we can rightly assume that people of other lands can equally sneak into this country without valid documents. A case in point is about some Nigerians who travel to Sudan under the cover of being pilgrims, but when they get there they discover that things are not what they thought they should be, and they become destitutes. I think our Government should be commended for the step it is taking to bring back these destitute pilgrims.

In the streets of Sudan you find Nigerians roaming about and when you pause to ask what their businesses are, they have no good reason to put forth. I think that in the interest of the good name of this nation, these people should

be repatriated back because they are depicting us in bad light. They have no good means of livelihood. It is very important that this Act should contain a remedy for dealing with such people.

I beg to support.

Senator Chief (Mrs) Wuraola A. Esan : I rise to support this Bill which is, indeed, welcome. My own observation is that this Bill should be able to ease the situation of the old set-up whereby Nigerians had to take the roundabout way of getting away to some other countries of the world. With this Bill, everyone now wishing to visit other countries will have to state the purpose, and if it is found to be honourable and genuine enough, *visas* and passport will be issued.

I think that before the aliens coming into this country or Nigerians leaving this country can be described as undesirables, we should have a balanced view of what exactly makes them undesirable. There are some people, I agree, who should not be allowed to leave this country for abroad, and there are equally some people who have come into this country that should not have been allowed in. But it is likely that some among those who, for one reason or the other, are described as undesirables can be really helpful.

For instance, I would like to say that although we have shut our doors against the white South Africans because we have said that they are undesirables, if some of them were to be allowed to enter into this country, they would change their opinion because they would find that Africans, too, can manage their own affairs efficiently and brilliantly, and perhaps, they might go back home and, at any rate, temper down their apartheid policy. What I am trying to point out is that before we dub people as undesirable, we should first of all look into both sides of the picture, for it is my opinion that we have nothing to gain by their being undesirables.

There are some harmless people who have come out to help—I mean the university lecturers and professors—and who, because of the nature of their job, attend conferences both within and without the country. I hope that this Bill will not, in any way, hinder them, especially when it is remembered that they have not completed their assignments out here.

I beg to support.

Senator A. Nwoke : I rise to support the Bill, and in doing so, I must congratulate the Minister who has so ably presented it. But I am afraid it is a bit too late. Between now and the time we had our independence I do not know how many immigrants have already come in, and the type of characters they have. That is why I consider the Bill a bit late.

The Bill aims at uniting together the former Immigration Act and the Aliens Act for the purpose of our national security and our national economy. If we allow this stranger-elements who are foreigners to enter our land, the fear is that they might come under different guises to capture our money and run away, thus impoverishing our own nation.

Our security is supreme. If there is anything vital to this country, it is our national security.

I do not think that we, as Nigerians, the leading Africans in this continent of Africa should by any means relax our immigration law in order simply to allow other members of the African continent to come in and stay. We should regard them more as security risks than as non-Nigerians. I have said this because there is still in Africa the temptation to seize power, not through the ballot box but by subversive activities. In view of this it will be heinous for us to give special treatment to an African merely because he is an African. We should consider each individual as harmful to us, if our present immigration law is to have any meaning at all.

I consider it very necessary that a strict search should be carried out among the foreign elements who are already domiciled in Nigeria. They should be properly scrutinised and where necessary turned out if their presence is not conducive to the security of this country.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : In supporting this very important Bill, I would like to congratulate the Government for considering the request made on the Floor of this Senate sometime ago that the time has come for the Chief Federal Immigration Officer to be replaced by a Nigerian. At that time, the Chief Federal Immigration Officer was a European. I am happy not only because the

Minister has said that all the branches of this Department have been Nigerianised but because I had occasion to go to the Immigration Department last month to do business and found that a Nigerian Federal Immigration Officer had already been appointed.

Before I went there, however, I went to the Minister and told him I would like to come and discuss a certain matter with him. I did this because I was made to understand that the expatriate officer in charge was a very rude and temperamental person, and that my discussion with him might spark off trouble. But when I got there I was happy to find a Nigerian at the helm of affairs. The man is the type that can be described as a perfect gentleman. Although he is a very tough person, his comportment and temperament are really commendable. A cultured person like that man at the helm of affairs in the Immigration Department is really an asset to this country. If Government will go round and look for men of that calibre to man important positions in this country, I think we definitely have a very great future.

The other point I would like to comment upon is about the training of Immigration officers. I want to know who are responsible for the training of these officers and where these trainers themselves were trained to be capable of teaching other people. From where did they graduate and what are their qualifications? For a person to be able to train another person to do a piece of job, he himself must be a qualified man, a graduate in that particular kind of duty. There is current rumour that some Immigration officers at the ports are very rude in their approach to people who come into this country. We must find men who have been properly trained to do the job.

The other point I would like to mention is about foreign investors. Although the Minister said in his opening speech that the intention is not to drive away foreign investors, I think this is a little bit difficult. There are people who come into this country in the guise of industrialising the country but who invariably change to something else. I am asking the Minister to guard against such a situation.

I now come to another thorny point concerning the harbouring of Syrians and Lebanese in this country. Every Senator will agree that there are too many aliens in this country to-day,

[SENATOR DAHLTON O. ASEMOTA]
and I do not know how the Immigration Department is able to handle them, particularly the Syrians and Lebanese. Some of them are born here, they marry here, their children grow and again marry here—

A Senator : Then, they are Nigerians.

The President : A Senator is reminding Senator Asemota that those born here become, automatically, Nigerian citizens.

Senator Asemota : That may be the case and the object of the Bill is to prevent expatriates coming to Nigeria to do the work Nigerians are capable of doing. If there are too many of them there will be no room for Nigerians and the situation must be handled with the greatest care. We certainly do not want to see more of them than we already have in this country to-day.

I congratulate the Immigration Department and the Minister himself. Every one knows that the Minister is a very cool headed Minister, very dynamic, and in fact, one of the best in the Cabinet. There is no doubt about that. We know him too well. He is most unassuming and not the type that goes on top of the roof to boost himself.

I support the Bill.

Senator H. O. Abaigu : This is a most welcome Bill. I only have to ask the Government to tighten our security measures and to restrict people from coming into this country anyhow. The people who should be restricted are those I want to refer to as the white settlers in South Africa, the white settlers in Southern Rhodesia and the white settlers in Portuguese Angola. These Europeans stole into Africa when Africa was asleep and now that Africa is awake and they have been told to go, they have refused to go. More and more of them are coming into Nigeria and are conspiring to steal our land. They did that in East Africa when the Africans were asleep.

A Senator said sometime ago that their stay in Nigeria might induce them to have a change of heart. I disagree with this view. In the Northern Region there are some white settlers from South Africa who came into Nigeria as missionaries. They are members of the Dutch Reformed Church. These people have lived in the Northern Region for about 46 years and

have continued to assure the head of their church that they support their Government's *apartheid* policy. Their stay in Nigeria has not brought about any change of heart in them. They still believe in their *apartheid* policy. I think that their retention in this country is really dangerous. The only way out is to ask those white settlers from South Africa, Southern Rhodesia and Portuguese Angola not to come to Nigeria. They should all be sent away.

Senator T. Olamijulo : I rise to support the Immigration Bill with one remark, and that is to ask from the Minister of Internal Affairs what Nigeria intends to do about Ghana. It is very difficult for Nigerians who are living in Ghana and who have been there for a long time to come home to Nigeria with their money. I do not know if other Senators from other parts of this country are aware of this situation, but we, in our part of this country, find that Nigerians who have been living in Ghana for almost 20 to 30 years are not able to bring back home their money. I understand that nobody can leave Ghana with anything more than £10. No one can come home with one's money in Ghana, whereas it is possible for Ghanaians here in Nigeria to take away their money back to their country, Ghana. Are we not going to do something about that now that we are considering something of this nature?

How do we in Africa pave the way for the unity of Africa when a neighbour like Ghana would not allow Nigerians to move freely between our two countries? All Africans are merely paying lip service to African unity. For how long are we going to do this? I think it is necessary that we should say something about this. It is now time to say what precisely we shall do in this respect when considering this Immigration Bill.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu : I rise to associate myself with the last speakers, but I have one or two points to make. The first point is about our national security, and the second point is about our national economy.

The Bill, as it is, is a very nice one. Looking at it from a certain angle, I would like to say that the security of a nation lies very much on a Bill of this nature, and I am grateful to our Government for the way and manner

they have adopted now to tighten our immigration law. But I am not sure, when preparing this Bill, whether our Government took into consideration the large number of Nigerians residing in London, in Germany, and in other parts of the world. What would be their position?

We may all have read already in the papers this morning about one Dr Imoke who has just been repatriated from Germany to Nigeria. He has been there for a number of years with his wife and children, and, according to the newspaper, his passport has been sent to London for renewal. I wonder if this is not the old colonial method of doing things—delaying the passport for a number of months, if possible for years, than is necessary before he gets it back. I do not know whether that accounts for the return of this Doctor from Germany, living his family there. This appears in the front page of the *Daily Times* of to-day.

I wish to advise the Minister concerned, though this is something to do with the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the person of hon. Jaja Wachuku, but nevertheless it affects everyone of us. Things of this nature do happen at times when one's passport is ready for renewal, and one cannot get the Immigration Office to renew it in time. I think our Minister should advise our Ambassadors or Security Officers, or Commissioners, to look into the renewal of such passports as early as possible.

Of course, we shall keep our ears open to hear what our Government or our Ambassador in Germany will say in connection with this Dr Imoke's return to Nigeria. It will arouse anybody's feelings if such an eminent doctor who has been in Germany for a number of years practising, could be asked to go back to Nigeria for no just cause known to us. I doubt if the reason is due to lack of funds, but I think we have got a competent Ambassador there who will look into this case and advise the doctor as to what he can do.

Senator A. Nwoke : On a point of explanation.

The President : A Senator can raise a point of explanation provided he had made a speech—

Senator Nwoke : On a point of order, I am sure Senator Hunponu-Wusu is referring to Dr Icheke and not Dr Imoke.

The President : No. I think the Senator is right because I read the article this morning. Dr Icheke's case happened a long time ago. The one which happened this morning is Dr Imoke. Will the Senator proceed.

Senator Hunponu-Wusu : So, I shall be happy if they will look into it.

Another one is the question of what our Government intends to do with the large number of Nigerians stranded in London or in Germany. I would seek the indulgence of the Government to look into that.

According to one Senator who has just spoken in connection with these Syrians, I know some of them are now Nigerians like ourselves, but we wish to look into the case of these people. I know some of them, when they do their business here, instead of doing something for Nigeria they carry their money back to their country in the same way and manner as one Senator has just explained to this honourable House about Ghanaians in Nigeria.

I am appealing to our Government and, in particular, to the Immigration Office to look into the welfare of our people in foreign countries in order to save our good name, our face, our national security, and our national economy abroad.

With these few remarks, I beg to support the Bill.

Senator Abdul Salami Yusifu : I beg to support the Bill, but before doing so, I would like to make some remarks.

This Bill is welcome. What the Bill seeks to do is to make it possible for both Nigerian citizens and other members of the Commonwealth of Nations to have access to enter any part of this country without difficulty, provided they are responsible persons.

This being so, I would like to express my deepest regret and sympathy that a British medical practitioner who had served this country efficiently was refused a certificate to set up his own business after he had retired. In any case as far as I am aware, it is difficult to assess who is responsible for this act because

[SENATOR ABDUL SALAMI YUSIFU]
the Principal Immigration Officer approved the application for the certificate, but it has not been granted.

I think that this country needs as many doctors as possible. We want people who are specialists in this field. I can understand why British lawyers are not allowed to come here and take fees: we have got sufficient lawyers. But as far as medical officers are concerned, we have not got enough of them. According to our population, one doctor will have to attend to one thousand patients. So, in my opinion, it is better that we should encourage such people to settle down in our country. Such people will help to improve our health.

At the same time, I think it is too early to say that we do not want foreigners or aliens to come and settle here and enjoy citizenship right. If we begin now to prevent these people from entering our social life and coming to settle in the country, our progress will be very slow. We need doctors, engineers and so forth in this country. I hope the Minister concerned will look into this matter and find out what is happening. We are saying that Africans can go to the United Kingdom and other parts of the world to settle down, I think we should likewise welcome foreigners to our own country.

This nation is young, we should therefore encourage people from all parts of the world to come and settle provided their doing so will help to promote progress and not do anything which may be detrimental to our progress.

With these few remarks, I support the Bill.

10.12 a.m.

Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu : Thank you very much, Mr President for allowing me to take part in debate on this Immigration Bill. I would first join the other Senators who have congratulated the hon. Minister in the way this Bill was presented.

We often talk about industrialisation, economy and security of this country. I think what this Bill intends to do is to see to the security, economy and industrialisation of this country. All we are after is that the hon. Minister who has presented this Bill should take every care to see that foreigners are not prevented from entering this country. These foreigners are the people who will help to industrialise our country. No country can

develop alone, without the assistance of foreigners in the form of doctors, engineers, and so on.

When we talk about security and industrialisation, we should also be careful about foreigners who are coming to this country. Some Senators say we should allow aliens while others say we should not. Foreigners coming into this country should let the Immigration Officers know what their mission is. Many of the aliens in this country now have become citizens. If the Government finds that their presence here is not conducive to security, then Government should ask them to go. That is what this Bill intends to control.

With these few remarks, I beg to support the Bill.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : I am grateful to Senators for their contributions to this debate and for the very matured thinking which they have shown while considering this Bill.

First of all, I would like to point out that there is a clear distinction between immigration and emigration. Many Senators spoke about passports and the question of repatriation of Nigerians in other countries. These matters are the responsibilities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; though the question of passport does not come strictly into this discussion. I do agree with the Senators who spoke about certain difficulties and about repatriation of destitute Nigerians. That, of course, concerns every Nigerian and it is in our interest that people who are destitutes, people who find themselves in trouble in other countries, should be repatriated.

I think the Government has been doing quite a lot in that direction. Senators know of the many thousands of pilgrims who have been repatriated from Saudi Arabia and the Sudan and many other places; even Government has repatriated some destitutes from other countries as well.

However, we are immediately concerned here with the new Immigration Bill which I am glad to note all Senators have welcomed and have agreed is most desirable to bring into force as soon as we can.

A question has been asked as to which countries Nigerians are allowed to enter without a visa. I should like to say that when this Bill comes into force, the question of

native foreigner will be abolished. Under the present Ordinance, we have all the West African territories plus the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Republic of Sudan. All these people from these countries are called native foreigners.

When this Bill is passed into law, we are going to abolish this native foreigner and consequently there will be a requirement for a visa by the nationals of those countries for entry into Nigeria because now, we allow nationals of those countries—being native foreigners to enter into Nigeria freely without a visa. There is no reciprocity except in a few cases, and we intend to make it reciprocal in future. That is why this Bill empowers me to go into this abolition Agreement and already we have this abolition Agreement with three of our neighbours—the Republic of Dahomey, the Republic of Togo and the Republic of Cameroun. Nigerians who enter these countries are not required to carry visa and we wish that all the other countries in West Africa, more especially our neighbours, will do the same thing and we will accord to their nationals the same privileges.

Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku spoke about giving political asylum to any African nationalist. Well, African nationalists have been entering Nigeria from various—

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku : May I appeal to the hon. Minister of Internal Affairs to be kind enough to raise his voice.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : I am sorry. It is my nature. My voice is just like that. In the Lower House, I use to speak near microphone and here unfortunately I have to raise my voice.

Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku spoke about political asylum for African nationals. Well, African nationalists have been entering Nigeria from various other countries and these people, mostly being native foreigners, are allowed free entry into Nigeria without the necessity of giving them political asylum. If you have a free entry, there is no question of giving you political asylum, because you enter the country when you wish and you leave it when you wish. Of course, Senators are aware of the recent grant of political asylum to a Portuguese national, Lieutenant Dallas who came here from Angola. We do

consider these cases most sympathetically when people seek political asylum, especially when they are running away from colonial bondage. It is our duty to have them, but we have not received many applications for political asylum as yet.

As I said before, those who are native foreigners had free entry and they had no need to ask for political asylum but when they ask, we will look into the matter most sympathetically. As the Senator has rightly said, Nigeria has a duty to lead African countries which are still under colonial bondage to freedom. It is our resolve to do so.

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale said that the implementation of this Act will be difficult. I do not think so. I do not see any difficulty in it. Once you give us the authority to go on, I think we shall have no difficulty at all. Quite apart from our very able officials, we have the Police in the Security Division and they are very diligent with the matter of immigration. No foreigner is allowed entry into this country just like that. We have got tight regulations and they are very strictly adhered to. Those who violate these regulations are strictly dealt with by the police.

Not many of our actions are known, but almost every day we deal with people who have in one way or the other gone against the immigration law. In some cases we refuse people entry right from the airport either because their documents are not proper or because they have no visa with which to enter Nigeria. In some cases too, we ask people who are here and are doing nothing other than loitering about to go back or leave this country without necessarily giving them a deportation order. But those people who stay here and whose presence we know is not conducive to security are advised to leave immediately, and if they refuse we resort to legal action.

I am grateful to Senator Asemota for the very kind remarks he made about my officials and myself, but I am afraid that it is difficult to say that it is only when Nigerians hold an office that other Nigerians are looked after. We should be fair in our remarks. There are among us European officials who are very good people and who are doing their very best to work for the country. We should not make

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any generalisations because people have different natures, whether they are Nigerians or expatriates. I think our officials—Nigerians and Europeans—have been doing their best to meet the wishes of Nigerians and to serve them in the best interest of this country. I now come to the question of training of Immigration officers. At present we are civilianising the Immigration Department. By civilianising I mean that the department is no longer under the disciplined Force. Formerly police officers were doing immigration duties, but now, the department has been civilianised and we have some of the police officers who have been doing this work and who have got long experience on it. These experienced police officers are asked to train the new entrants into this department. We have also a very experienced officer who is conducting this training. This is a matter of experience rather than of academic qualification because I do not think there is any degree in Immigration. Experience, I think, is the best teacher. Those who have long experience in dealing with people who enter the country and those who have been for years in this work know how best to conduct themselves especially when meeting strangers.

Some Senators also spoke about the problem of Syrians and Lebanese. We must accept this as a fact, as was said by Senator Nwoke. Some of these people came several years ago and have actually settled in this country. Some of them were born here and they have no other home. Many of them have registered as Nigerians and once a person has been registered as a Nigerian that person has got every right as any other Nigerian. So, it is difficult to say what to do concerning those who are already here because unless they include those who are undesirable they cannot be sent out of the country.

But this Bill when passed will give us more control on the entry of more of them. Now, we do not allow a Syrian or a Lebanese or any other national for that matter to bring his relation here or to bring some of his friends to work for him just because he is here.

As I said in my speech while introducing this Bill, before any alien is allowed entry into Nigeria we have to know first what he is coming here to do. If he is going to be employed in Nigeria we have to know where he is going to be employed; whether his employers have

got what we call "expatriate quota" because every firm is given a certain limited number of expatriates which it can employ. We have to know that the company he is going to serve has a quota; what type of employment he is going to get and we have to be satisfied that no Nigerian available who can do the job. That is the condition. Unless he satisfies these conditions, he will not even be allowed to enter the country, much less to stay.

We do not stop at that. If all these conditions are fulfilled we have also to know what type of person he is himself; whether he has any adverse security report; whether he is engaged in some other activity which may be to the detriment of this country. If we have any adverse report against that person, whether he is an expatriate or a lawyer or whatever he is, we do not allow him to enter the country. This part of the Bill will strengthen my hand in doing this sort of thing.

We have been giving quotas to companies, restricting the number of people they can employ. We have been asking people to leave the country and also some other things. Now we want this Bill to give us the legal backing to do all these things which are very essential for the security and for the rapid progress of this great country of ours.

A Senator : On a point of order, no mention has been made with regard to Ghana-Nigeria relations.

The President : Order.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time immediately considered in Committee reported, without Amendment; read the Third time and passed.

CINEMATOGRAPH BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari) : I rise to move, that a Bill for an Act to make better provision for the censorship of films for public exhibition and for related matters be now read a Second time.

The existing law, the Cinematograph Act, Cap. 32, which is nearly thirty years old, deals only with the censorship of films. Under this law the censorship of films is carried out by Censorship Boards in four main centres in

the Federation, that is to say, in Lagos, Kano, Enugu and Port Harcourt. By this arrangement cinema proprietors can take films to the Regions where censorship is less rigorous than in Lagos.

This system whereby films may be censored by any one of the four virtually independent Boards opens the way to some laxity in the standards maintained by the Central Censorship Board and also makes it possible for a different interpretation to be put on the principles by which the Censorship Committees of the Boards are guided.

There can be no doubt that there is every reason for Government to ensure that the principles governing the censorship of films should be rigidly applied throughout the country. Firstly, films depicting crimes against law and order should not be approved if their presentation is such as to enlist sympathy with crime as against law and justice or to inspire others with a desire for imitation, or if it is not apparent who is on the side of law and order, or who is against it.

The second principle is that films which depict racial troubles or are calculated to arouse racial feelings or to offend racial susceptibilities should be rejected. The purpose of this second principle is to ensure that the history, institutions and customs of a race are respectfully handled.

The third principle governing the censorship of films is that pictures which suggest that low forms of sex relationship are commonplace should not be allowed to be shown. In this connection, sexually suggestive scenes are to be excised from such pictures.

Finally, no film which shows ridicule on any religious faith should be accepted, and any scene calculated to injure religious susceptibilities should also not be permitted.

I am sure Senators will agree with me that the four principles which I have just postulated are such that no laxity in the censoring of films should be allowed. It is most important that in a growing country such as ours, we should do all in our power to maintain a high moral standard in the programmes shown in our cinemas, and to avoid the risk of inconsistency and the possibility of the lowering of standards in the censorship of films. It is Government's view that a Central Authority should be set up which would be empowered to censor all films,

whether imported or locally produced, before they are approved for exhibition in any part of the Federation.

Senators will, I am sure, be pleased to know that the Regional Governments have indicated their support for the action being taken by the Federal Government to introduce this new and up-to-date Bill, so that Regulations can be made for the setting up of a Central Censorship Board on which the Regional Governments would be represented.

Part I of the Bill makes provision for the establishment and regulation of the Federal Authority employed to prohibit or restrict the exhibition of all cinematograph films, whether imported or locally produced, to be shown in any part of the Federation in the interest of public safety, public order or public morality. This part of the Bill also stipulates the conditions under which power to enter and view premises meant for the exhibition of films may be given to a Police Officer or any person authorised by me.

Finally, Part I of the Bill provides for the making of Regulations by me for prescribing the procedure to be followed for the censorship, generally, of any film submitted to the Board and the fees to be paid. It also prescribes the powers and duties of the President, Secretary and members of the Board.

Part II of the Bill deals with the exhibition of films in the Federal Territory. It provides that whether or not any film has been approved for exhibition under the provisions of Part I of this Bill, it will not be exhibited in the Federal Territory if the film is inflammable or of any otherwise dangerous nature except on premises licensed for the purpose.

Provision is also made in this Part of the Bill for the control of premises which have been licensed by me for the exhibition of films through special superintendence.

Part II further empowers me to make regulations for prescribing the procedure by which applications for licences may be made for ensuring fire safety conditions and penalties to be imposed for the breach of those regulations.

Part III of the Bill contains the Interpretation Clause.

Parts I and III apply to the Federation of Nigeria and Part II to the Federal Territory only.

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I am confident that this Bill will have the full support of the Senate and that it would, therefore, have an easy passage.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Health (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): I beg to second.

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba: This is a very welcome Bill. One of the many reasons for the increase of social evils among our young boys and girls is the exhibition of immoral films. Frequent visits to such cinema houses help our people to be easy prey to immoral, social and spiritual idleness. To-day in Nigeria social reform constitutes no less a problem than the economic and other aspects of our life which have so greatly engaged the attention of our Government and other agencies whose efforts are directed towards the social improvement of our people.

At this stage, the problem of our social ills and the raising of the social standard of our boys and girls, the need to help them escape from the ever powerful hands of temptation, should engage our attention. A high standard of censorship of films should be ensured throughout the Federation. I suggest to the Federal Government, that the members of the Federal Censorship Board should be people of very high integrity.

I beg to support.

Senator M. B. Chukwubike: This is one of the most progressive Bills ever moved on the Floor of this House and it should, therefore, receive an easy passage, I would have said that the Bill is overdue, but I am not unaware of the fact that the Government is facing the problem of reshaping this country after our independence. I mean that the Government is due to review some Bills for amendment. Perhaps this is generally done in order of priority, and I think this should have been one of the first.

Both inside and outside this Parliament, much has been said in condemnation of the detrimental role that bad and indecent films have played and are still playing in the development of the youths of this country. I only want to add a word or two for the sake of emphasis. We know that everything has some good or evil effect, but I must say that the evil effects of the cinemas in this country

outweigh their usefulness. I am, therefore unhesitatingly supporting this move of the Government to stop this abuse of privilege and miseducation of our youths.

In most of our local cinemas, which are over 80 per cent foreign dominated, our young boys and girls are shown how to break safes, how to romance, how to dance indecently, how to break doors, how to dress half nakedly, and how to do all sorts of things evil. Much harm has been done, and that was why I wanted to say that this Bill came too late. I am now suggesting and urging a very rigid application of this Bill when it is passed into law. We need films that will show our farmers in decent fields, show our coal miners, tin miners, produce production and such other films as would help our youths to become responsible citizens of this country.

If I make a reference to the film unit of the Eastern Nigeria Government, I do so with a deep sense of responsibility. I am not here to praise the Eastern Government, but I feel that I do so here because it is worth doing. This film unit of the Eastern Government shows all development projects in the Region. It shows the Eastern Government at work. In short, it shows everything that will make our youths to become responsible citizens of this country. I am asking all the Governments of the Federation to borrow a leaf from the Eastern Regional Government.

Lastly, if any cinema proprietor does not abide by this law, he should not only be brought to book, but he should be asked to wind up.

I beg to support.

10.52 a.m.

Senator S. Eytayo: I rise to support this Cinematograph Bill whose aim is to make better provisions for the censorship of films for public exhibition. The two Senators who spoke before me have mentioned the fact that the Bill is not controversial and therefore that it should receive an easy passage by this House. I agree with them whole-heartedly.

The Minister who introduced this Bill has just told us that the existing Act is almost thirty years old. During the time that the existing Act was made, Nigeria was a dependent country. But since then, by the Grace of God, Nigeria has become an independent

country. Most of the provisions of that Act have been overtaken by time. As such, the old order has changed and must inevitably give place to new.

I do not want to repeat what the other Senators who spoke before me have said, but I must say that this Bill has been brought forward at the right time. We all know the wrongs that have been done to this nation by many immoral films that have been exhibited to the people of this country. Indeed, many of those immoral pictures are still being shown in many parts of Nigeria to-day.

As was said by the Minister, there were four Boards provided in the old Cinematograph law, but they are now being overtaken by a Central Board. All I wish to add is that whenever the new Central Board is to be set up, men of very high religious convictions and of integrity who will see to the welfare of our people and to the training of our young people in the art of right living, should be appointed to become members of this Board. There should be no discrimination whatsoever.

I beg to support the Bill.

10.56 a.m.

Senator H. N. Udoh : To start with, I must congratulate the Minister of Internal Affairs on bringing this overdue Bill. Many Senators have touched necessary points, and I am now only supplementing their points.

Personally, I do not know whether the members of the present Board censored any films at all because nobody, even myself, who has seen the pictures shown in our cinema theatres has returned after the show with satisfaction, despite what we now call the present development. Well, I do not know whether it is within the prerogative of the Minister to give the Members of the Board terms of reference. Since this Board was set up, have they ever really censored or condemned any films? However, we must thank God because the Minister has just said that we will be having a Central Board which, I think, should have an overall authority over the other Regional Boards.

It was just the day before yesterday that we were talking about projecting Nigeria abroad. The proprietors of films or cinematographs have their own part to play in this regard.

The film we saw some time ago at the Victoria Island was the only local one we have ever seen. We saw the discovery of petrol in Nigeria. There are very many other things which will make people anxious to come to Nigeria and know that Nigeria is making a move—fishing industry, boat making and so on, for instance. But instead of this, we see how houses are demolished; how people are stopped with revolvers and asked to choose between their lives and their property, and things of that type. Children are great learners. What they see they like to put into practice—just like monkeys. I do not know whether it will be too much on the nation if the age of the children to see these pictures could be limited.

There is a certain time in a child's life when he likes to put it into practice whatever he sees. There was once a photographer who had a child. He used to turn some chemicals into a glass. Whenever he did this, his son would be watching him. When he went out one day, his son wanted to do like his father. He turned the chemicals into the glass, misused them and he died. Therefore, these bad films must not be exhibited. When children see the atrocities that are practised on human lives and property, naturally they will try to perform them.

Therefore, I am appealing to the Minister, as other Senators have done, to appoint well-meaning people as members of this Board. No favouritism should come into it because discrimination is a deadening disease to the progress of any country. If we watch carefully and compare the position of the younger ones to-day with that of the past, we will find a great difference. They are morally bad and weak in all activities of life. It does not pay to keep on recounting this because I feel that many other Senators who have spoken have said enough and those who may wish to speak will bring in many other points dealing with this Cinematograph Bill.

The Bill should not be a sort of paper work. We should not say that the Bill has been passed and then leave it there. It must be implemented.

I support the Bill.

Senator Chief Z. C. Obi : I merely desire to express my full support for this Bill since it seeks to tighten up the censorship of films, and it also seeks to eliminate obscene films which have been coming into this country for

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many years. Every Nigerian is agreed that a lot of evil has been imported into the country by way of films, and the time is now ripe to bring a stop to this practice.

I beg to support.

Senator Chief (Mrs) Wuraola A. Esan : I support the Bill because it aims at safeguarding the morals of our children. I would like to add that we do not only require strict censorship of our films, but we require truly Nigerian films to be shown both internally and externally. We want to show the natural culture of our people, our beautiful women dancers and our own drums.

One Senator has suggested that films of our miners at work and our farmers should also be shown. These are good for educational purposes, but I think people also go to cinema shows for enjoyment. That is why I suggest that our local cinemas and overseas cinemas should be made to depict our indigenous culture and tradition.

I beg to support.

Senator Chief P. C. Ndu : I support this Bill with all seriousness. It is non-controversial, and I think it is one of the best that we have ever had introduced on the Floor of this House, and for this reason I am congratulating the Minister on the good work he has done.

Some Senators, of course, have said that the Bill has come a little too late. In fact, I am in agreement with them that it is a little late, but all the same the Bill is very good.

The Bill, in the first place, intends to create a Censorship Board. I wish the Government, when selecting members of the Board, not to limit itself to Lagos, but to include people from the Regions—people who will be able to stop the film projectors from showing the nudity of our people. It is not unusual for these projectors to go into the interiors and find our people nude; they should not be concerned with taking such people; they should look round and find people who go by cars, people digging coal in the mines, and farmers in their barns. These are the sort of things that we want to see shown, not just the bad sides of our life.

In the second place, I want to say that there are some Syrians and Lebanese who have come out here only to enrich themselves. They

have theatres where they show our children particularly at their impressionable age, such films as are of a questionable nature. It should be remembered that all children, when they come across someone doing something, whether that thing is good or bad, are unmindful and would like to imitate.

These Lebanese bring in films that teach our boys and girls how to use arms and bayonets and how to strip people of their belongings; and the worst thing is that these boys have even put into practice what they have seen in the cinemas by forcibly trying to deprive people of their property.

I would like the board to scrutinize properly and to ensure that any film considered to be bad is not shown to the public.

I support the Bill.

Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku : The Bill is good, but it is not complete. As Senators, it is our duty to see that nothing but the best is had in Nigeria.

I am not actually opposed to the Bill as such, but I am opposed to the general principles. I know every Senator has had time to study the Bill and those of us who have done so know that there are certain defects to be put right.

The Bill, in the first instance, seeks to censor films that will be shown in Nigerian theatres. This is very good. But it does not attempt to intrude into the projecting and showing of films for viewing abroad. I remember sometime ago when I was in Chicago, United States, a film which I would described as antiquated, was being shown about Nigeria in a most objectionable manner. This had been so because people simply come into this country and film whatever they fancy and take them away unchallenged. I think that we should ensure that before anyone takes away any film to another land, it should be shown to us here for the purpose of censorship. This Bill has done nothing to this effect, and I ask the Minister to think of including such a clause in it.

This Bill is something of a drilling exercise in that it sort of tells one "open the valve, close the valve; again open the valve, close the valve, if you do it indiscriminately it may wreck the engine". My point here is that the Bill is saying on the one hand that all films

will be censored, but on the other hand it says that the censorship board will have the right to exempt certain films. That is okay. But again it goes further to say that certain films could be shown to a group of people indoors.

If anyone wants to indoctrinate some set of people, surely he will not do so in the open. I may choose to show a personal film indoors and then gather the people I want and start to show the film and to indoctrinate them as well. Nobody will interfere because I would say that the film is personal and is intended for personal use. The same is true of films produced by, or under the direction of, some Commonwealth Embassies. I object to this practice.

My objection stems from the fact that even in some Commonwealth countries, Nigeria has not won her real position and real status. For example, Canada is a Commonwealth country, but some of her leading personalities have had some unpleasant things to say about Nigeria with which we were not happy. If people shoot films here and send them to, say, Canada, what do we have to expect? The expectation is obvious.

Diplomatic immunity should not be applied in this instance to films. If, say, the British High Commission wishes to shoot films to show to people here or to its local staff, we must know all about such films. All the same, if they like, when we take films to London we can equally let them censor them. Otherwise, if we allow the law to stand as it is, we shall be defeating—

Senator Salahu Fulani : On a point of order, I should like to know if the Senator speaking is moving an Amendment or moving a Motion?

Senator Beyioku : We are talking solely on the general principles of the Bill. The point I am making is that we should not leave these things to go uncorrected. The type of films shown here in which people do nothing but shoot, is to some extent good to correct the minds of our youth, but then the most important thing is that we must take great care to prevent sabotage and indoctrination.

I now come to our own films. The President of Guinea was here yesterday and all of us here were at the State House to welcome him. We saw several films being shot but believe me,

Mr President, that will be end of it. They are made exclusive to Ministers, no one knows when these films are shown, and as a result the younger generation will not know anything about what is going on in the country.

Whenever the Premier of the East or the Premier of the North, Sir Ahmadu Bello comes here, one generally sees the Film Unit in action shooting and shooting. Where are all these films which are shot on public occasions?

The Minister of Health (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi) : On a point of order, films which are shot on public occasions are usually projected on the Television Service and everybody can go and see them. They are not exclusive to any Minister whatsoever.

The President : That is right. I saw some of us on the television last night.

Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku : Thank you, Sir. I think I will leave the question of television because there is nothing about it before us now, but I still say that the television is meant exclusively for a class of people who can afford to buy a television set. How many poor or average men in this country have television sets in their houses?

The Minister of Health : The Ministers, themselves, cannot afford to buy a television set.

Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku : Whether the sets are supplied free of charge or not, Senators and other Parliamentarians have television sets but they are not the people we want to educate. They are the actors. The people we want to educate and who should know about these things are the common men.

Minister of State (Hon. Mbazulike Amechi) : On a point of order, when Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku keeps on saying "you", he is obviously addressing us and Mr President should be addressed when Senators are speaking.

The President : Is the Minister of State trying to correct the Chair?

Mr Amechi : No, Mr President, I was only trying to raise a point of order.

The President : I am fully conscious of everything that is happening in the Senate and I will take action when I deem it appropriate.

Mr Amechi : Thank you, Mr President. The other point I want to make is this. I was until a couple of months ago, in the Ministry of Information and I want to say as a matter of fact that when public documentary films are shot they are usually sent to public cinema houses to be relayed as newsreel. Perhaps Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku does not find much time to attend public cinemas.

Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku : I am a cinema fan. It is about the only hobby I have. I go almost every night and it is only on one occasion that I have seen this thing.

Senator Chief (Mrs) Wuraola A. Esan : When was that ?

Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku : It was during our independence celebrations.

The President : If the Senator continues dragging this point, it can be irrelevant.

Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku : Mr President, Sir, a Minister of State raised a point of order and I am only trying to counter it. By and large, I think we have to take very great care.

I now come to this cinematograph business. The Ministry of Information must work hand in hand with the Ministry of Internal Affairs on this matter of disseminating news appertaining to the Government and people of this country.

I have given notice that at the Committee Stage I will move a minor Amendment in order to correct the very first point I raised and to make sure that there is absolute security and protection on the question of sabotage and indoctrination.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : I have listened attentively to the debate but I still find, as I did in the last Bill, that Senators tend to go into other Ministers' responsibilities in discussing my own Ministry. The question of shooting and distributing films is a matter for the Minister of Information. Fortunately, my Colleague, the Minister of State (*Mr Amechi*) is here and I think he will be able to enlighten Senators who like to know how the Ministry of Information deals with the shooting and distributing of films.

The Bill before us now is concerned with the censorship of films which are shown in Nigeria and those which are brought into Nigeria from abroad. That is the limitation of this Bill, although Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku would like the Bill to go further. If it went as far as he wanted, I think, it would include certain of the responsibilities of the Ministry of Information. We cannot control pictures which have been taken. This means that every camera has to be taken to the Censorship Board and I think that will entail quite a lot of work. It must be understood that films which are meant for the television are mostly films which should be shown on the very day they are shot. That is why television is an expensive project, people want to see these films "alive" that is, the films should be seen on the screen simultaneously as they are shot. If we have to take films which are meant for television to the Censorship Board, I do not think that television will be of any use again.

The question of films which come through foreign embassies is a very difficult one to control because of their diplomatic privileges. Again, this is a matter for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I agree with the Senator who suggested that there might be a danger of indoctrination. In that respect, I have to say that while it is true that there can be dangers through the activities of some foreign embassies, it has to be admitted that it is a common practice in the world. It is an accepted practice that embassies enjoy diplomatic privileges. These privileges are reciprocal and we too, wherever we have an embassy, have these privileges and will not like anybody to infringe on our privileges diplomatically. However, this is a matter for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Senators have also spoken about the need to have people of high moral integrity as members of our Film Censorship Board. I entirely agree with them and will assure them that we are doing all we can to see that the best type of people are selected for this important job. There had been, and there is at the moment, a Board here in Lagos and many other cities, as I have enumerated in my speech, but apart from the Board here in Lagos, others are Regional Boards. We now want to have a Central Board in which there

will be a member representing each of the Regions of the Federation. These people will be people of high moral integrity and good standards who will easily differentiate between what is good for Nigeria and what is not.

I think I also enumerated in the course of my speech the type of films which will be accepted in Nigeria and those which will be rejected.

I informed Senators that there are criteria for judging whether some films should be accepted or not. We do not want films which show prolonged beating, cruelty, and we would not accept films in which women are subject to violence, unless they are absolutely essential to the story—sometimes they are. We do not want films which impress upon such things, and bad films which throw bad light on personalities or the country can be excised or completely abolished.

There is also provision in the Regulations to prevent children from seeing such films, and one can see in the advertisements sometimes that children are not allowed in some cinema houses for particular films. The Censorship Board has passed such films in the light that they should not be shown to children, and it will be against the Regulations for any cinema owner to allow children to see such films. But we cannot put too much restriction on the type of films to be shown because one of the Senators has said that people have their own tastes, and if the film proprietors are bringing these films for profit, of course, they will have to bring films which people really want. Some people are not interested in films which show stories, history, and culture, although they are very useful. The general public want to see something more lively and colourful. So, we do allow some of these colourful and lively films provided they meet all the requirements which I have enumerated in my speech.

As for the other point raised by Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku I would say that we reserve that until we go to the Committee Stage, because I understand that he intends to move an Amendment.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

CINEMATOGRAPH BILL: CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 1—(CINEMATOGRAPH FILMS TO BE APPROVED FOR EXHIBITION).

Senator A. E. Ukattah : I have no intention of speaking on this Bill, but I feel that this Clause 1 has provided a very big loophole, and if we do not expunge this particular subsection we shall be defeating the very aim of this lofty Bill.

If we go through it we will find that, as Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku said earlier on, the Censorship Board is not to censor any film brought into this country by the diplomatic representative of any Commonwealth or foreign country. I do not think that any film which may be regarded as bad can come from Nigerians themselves. They can only come from foreigners. When we have a very big loophole like this we are allowing the diplomatic representatives of any Commonwealth or foreign country to bring all sorts of films into this country.

Well, I do not intend to cast aspersions on the integrity of any of these diplomatic representatives, but one may well remember what happened last time when one gentleman in that group was said to have imported films under cover of diplomatic immunity. What assurance have we if this provision is made that such a thing will not happen again? That is why I have moved that this particular section be completely expunged in order to give this Bill the chance of attaining its lofty aims.

The President : What Senator Ukattah wants us to do is this. In Clause 1, subsection (2) (b), (ii) he wants us to delete the whole of (ii) :—

“(ii) the diplomatic representative of any Commonwealth or foreign country ;

He wants us to omit the whole of that. Will the Minister accept that ?

The Minister of Internal Affairs : Well, I do not think that the Senator will insist on this, because this is the normal thing.

We are now dealing with diplomats. We must not be too rigid because it is a matter of protocol, as I said. What one requires to be done for one's embassies in other countries one is expected also to concede in one's country. It is not everything done by diplomats that is acceptable to the country in which they are, but it is a matter of principle that they are always

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tolerated because it is an international practice. In the interest of good relationship between our country and the representatives of friendly countries in this country I ask the Senator not to stress on this.

I do not wish to say I oppose, but I cannot accept it.

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku : We are mindful of maintaining very friendly relationship with all countries of the world. At the same time we are mindful of the fact that we ourselves are still a young nation. Every-time we talk about the security of our State we should not forget that everybody who smiles at us is not a friend. I think in the interest of this country, at least for some years to come, as I said before, if it is necessary, let our own films which we shall export to their own countries be censored.

I feel that for the time being we should leave our law silent on this particular aspect. Let us expunge it for the time being.

Senator T. Olamijulo : I would like to share the views of Senators who have spoken. I think Nigerians abroad cannot say where those places are—very unlikely. They must portray as the people would like, and as such, I think in the best interest of Nigeria, we should be allowed to censor their films.

The Chairman : Before you go on, Senators, I think it is my duty to remind you that the Minister is pointing out to you that this is a form of reciprocity in a matter of courtesies allowed by one country to another. So long as you bear that in mind, you can go on.

Senator J. K. Nzerem : I think we should not press so much about that. But I suggest one compromise and that is, that films brought in by diplomatic missions be not shown publicly. If they show them to members of their staff alone in their Embassies, we would not worry. But if they are to be shown to the Nigerian public, I think we would be defeating the whole aim by not censoring them.

Senator P. A. Ogunidipe : I think we should be very frank to ourselves in this matter. The question of mutual courtesy should not blind us to what we consider may endanger our morality. Since it is a question of mutual courtesy, let as many countries as would like to censor our own films do so.

I do not know why I should be given the kind of food which I might find to be bitter or disagreeable with my stomach. I would like the Minister of Internal Affairs to know that this Senate is out to support him and to help him in the discharge of his very delicate duty. I should think that he too should feel bound to take our Amendment.

Senator A. Nwoke : I do not believe in this type of reciprocity. As a matter of fact, I do not think, seriously speaking, that we have got the experience in the art of diplomacy that is expected of other nationals in the Embassies.

We have the manpower and instrument with which we can shoot films to satisfy our own people. I feel strongly that we should expunge that paragraph. It does not matter very much if the Minister brings it up at another stage after we shall have had sufficient experience in the art of diplomacy.

Senator H. O. Abaagu : Taking into account the speeches made by Senators when we were debating this Bill, I think every Senator has expressed anxiety for the Bill being passed and implemented.

I would like to beg Senator Ukattah not to insist on this Amendment as the Minister has rightly explained the matter. I think it would very much embarrass the Minister if we should obstruct the Bill and it is taken back.

Senator P. A. Ogunidipe : On a point of order, the Senator is making us to understand that this House cannot make Amendments.

The Chairman : That is not a point of order.

Senator Ogunidipe : In the first place, he is begging the Senator—

The Chairman : He has a right to beg anybody in this House. You are out of order. Your order is not well taken.

Senator Abaagu : I think we should not insist on the Amendment because, if we insist, the Bill will be taken back either to the Cabinet or to the Lower House, and it will take a long time before it comes back.

A Senator : Is the Senator speaking holding brief for the Minister?

The Chairman : He has the right to hold brief for the Minister, so have you. There are two sides to a question : you have a right to be on the Minister's side or against.

Senator Aabaqu : In view of the fact that we want this Bill to be passed and implemented, I would suggest that we desist from insisting on the Amendment. I think in order not to embarrass the Minister, I would suggest that we should desist from insisting on the Amendment.

Senator Chief (Mrs) Wuraola A. Esan : I do agree that the Amendment should be dropped. But I too would like to suggest that if this means that the Bill has to be taken back and will stay for another three to four months, I would suggest that we ask the Minister to go back and do something about our suggestions. We should not insist on the Amendment so as not to send the Bill back.

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale : I would like to draw the attention of Senators to the explanation given by our President in connection with the Amendment suggested. The Amendment which has now been suggested will, in course of time, come to what has been inserted now. We may be thinking that it will not come, but it will come. We are making provision not for to-day but for tomorrow. We make provision for what will come and not for what has passed, and for that reason, I do not think the Amendment is warranted.

Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu : My own contribution is in the form of question. I would like to know whether films belonging to diplomatic missions are censorable by the Federal Government or by the Censorship Board? If this question is answered, then I have something to add.

The Chairman : Will the Minister try and comment. This is Committee Stage, we always come back to it.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari) : I am sorry, I did not hear the Senator.

The Chairman : He wants to know whether the Federal Government censors these diplomatic films?

The Minister of Internal Affairs : No. But if they are going to be shown to the public yes.

Senator Acholonu : I would like to support the other Senators who said that that Clause should be amended, because if they are going to show the films here, any law that binds us must bind them. Whatever we say is good for—

The Chairman : Chief Acholonu, I hope you understand the reply of the Minister because, somehow, to me, what you are saying seems to be against what I thought your question meant to be.

Senator Acholonu : I understand.

The Chairman : Now that we are in Committee we can have a heart to heart talk. Your question is, "Does the censorship board censor these films from the diplomatic sources at any time"? The answer is, if they are going to be released to the Nigerian public, they will censor it, but if they are going to show it for themselves—say the Indian High Commissioner wants to show his wife and children in their own parlour—then it will not be censored. But what the Senator is saying now, according to my own way of thinking, does not fall in line with the answer.

Senator Acholonu : If this is so, the Bill must remain as it is.

The Chairman : That is the point. We all are human beings. From a certain set of questions one can deduce a certain set of conclusions. What the Senator said now is what deduces from the answer to the question, and not what the Senator said before.

Senator Oba Adeniji Adele II of Lagos : I am viewing the whole question from a different angle. This is a matter of diplomatic relationship between one country and another. There is what is known in protocol as diplomatic immunity. If we decide this question in this House on the contrary—that all films from foreign embassies should be censored—I know it will not apply to this matter alone. It will have some repercussions on other states who are now stationed in Lagos, or anywhere else in Nigeria for that matter. If we censor the films coming from other countries, our own films there shall have to be censored, and

[SENATOR OBA ADENIJI ADELE]

our people will not like it. If we decide here that diplomatic immunity should be waived in this matter, it may not rest there. It may apply to other matters too. We have to take human factors into consideration. There are several matters which come within diplomatic immunity, and if we waive diplomatic immunity in one respect, it must be waived in other respects, and this might bring certain things that might not be pleasing to us. That is one.

The hon. Minister has assured us that the films intended for the foreign Ambassadors and their families should not be exhibited to the public unless they are censored. If these are to be censored it amounts almost to the same thing, because pictures coming before the public shall have to be censored in the same way as ordinary films are censored. From that point of view, I think we need not press the Amendment to this particular item further.

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : I have examined this Bill very closely. I think there is no danger in allowing this Clause to remain as it is. There is no danger at all. We should be reciprocal. That is all we have here—"The diplomatic representative of any Commonwealth or foreign country." We have the same set-up all over the country. If we start to do this sort of thing, I think it will be creating a feeling which will be unfavourable to us. So, I am recommending very strongly that we should not interfere with this Bill.

Senator A. E. Ukattah : The point I want to make is in regard to the improper wording of this section of the Bill. There will be no trouble if the films imported by any diplomatic representative are allowed to be shown privately without censorship. There is no proviso to indicate that if the film is going to be shown to the public the Federal Censorship Board shall be invited. There is no such thing. The hon. Minister was trying to give certain explanations. But as the Bill is now, there is no such thing there.

A Senator was talking about embarrassment, I think he must have been dreaming. Any Minister that comes here to present a Bill must be prepared to take brick bats. The other Senator who spoke before said that we are talking about the future. Whatever we do now, we must see beyond our noses. We must have foresight. Whatever Bill we pass here must be

perfectly considered. An explanation was given that where a film is brought in by any diplomatic representative and that film is going to be shown to the general public, it must be subject to censorship. I want to understand clearly if that is so.

The Chairman : I do not know whether it is so or not, but that is the answer of the Minister. The Senator is addressing me and he is asking me to say if that is so, and I refuse to say that that is so.

Senator Ukattah : May I ask the Minister through you, Mr Chairman, whether he is giving us the assurance that where a film imported by any diplomatic representative is to be exhibited to the public, it must be subject to censorship.

The Minister of Internal Affairs : The whole purpose of the Bill is that films which are going to be shown to the public, whether they come from outside Nigeria or whether they were made here in Nigeria, will be censored.

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku : On a point of order, the impression will be wrong because the Clause is quite definite on this.

And it being 11.45 a.m. the Chairman proceeded to interrupt the Business, pursuant to standing Order 5 (3).

(The President resumed the Chair)

Committee report Progress—to sit again, Tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion Made and Question proposed, That this House do now adjourn (THE MINISTER OF HEALTH).

Senator J. K. Nzerem : I would like to be reassured that the Business of the Senate that was skipped over yesterday because of the visit of President Sekou Toure will feature in the next days' Order Paper, or am I to understand that it has lapsed? I would like to be assured that it will be taken up at subsequent sittings.

The President : The Bills we now have on the Order Paper are those we have not done, and if the Senator looks at the Order Paper of yesterday he will see that they were also there.

The hon. Minister has assured this House that these Bills are all to be done. If we do some to-day, the remainder will be done at another time.

Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku : May I tell the hon. Senator that questions are taken on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Questions are not taken on Fridays and Saturdays according to Standing Orders.

Minister of State (Hon. Mbazulike Amechi) : I am aware that Senator Nzerem filed some Questions, one of them dealing with

my Ministry. These Questions were listed for yesterday, but the House did not meet. If the Questions are re-listed, we shall provide the answer, otherwise, we shall make the Editor of the *Hansard* have them for printing in the Official Reports.

The President : Will the Leader of the House see to it that the Questions are re-listed for Monday. Does that satisfy the Senator ?

Senator Ezerem : Yes, Mr President.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Senate do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at 11.50 a.m.

SENATE OF THE FEDERATION OF
NIGERIA

Saturday, 27th April, 1963

The Senate met at 9 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

ORDER OF THE DAY

CINEMATOGRAPH BILL

(House in Committee)

The Chairman : We were discussing the Amendment to C.1 Sub-clause 2 (b) and I did not put the Question before the Senate rose yesterday.

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku : Before we rose yesterday, we were made to understand by the hon. Minister of Internal Affairs that under the particular Clause for which an Amendment was filed, films for public exhibition have to be censored but films for private screening are exempted from such censor. I want to say that the Bill as it stands does not provide for us—because the particular section is quite definite on the issue. I want to quote C.1, sub-clause 2 (b) from where the whole thing started.

(2) *Nothing in this section shall apply,—*

(a) *to any exhibition given in premises to which the public are not admitted ;*

(b) *to any film exempted by the board under this Act and imported, produced or issued by or by the direction of,—*

(i) *the Federal Government or any Regional Government ;*

(ii) *the diplomatic representative of any Commonwealth or foreign country ;”*

The emphasis is on *and*. In the other Clause there is no provision that films intended for public exhibition have to pass through the censor. If there had been anything like that, if there had been a proviso, we would have understood.

I want to remind Senators that the other time when we had a Debate on the Bill establishing the Law School, we raised objections to a certain Clause and we were assured that when the Regulations would be prepared our objection would be taken into consideration. We were given that assurance but that law has been passed and up till now neither the regula-

tion nor anything else has come before this House to prove that the assurance given us here was fulfilled. (*Hear, hear*). Here is another case in which an assurance is given. Unless the hon. Minister will show us in this particular Bill where it is provided that films imported by diplomatic representatives, if they are to be screened for the public, have to be censored, I think I will go on with the Amendment.

The Chairman : While you are going on, let me remind you again about the reciprocity, and then you must ask yourself how many films do these embassies import. Go on but bear that in mind. Do not forget that the next one there is U.N.O. If you are going to apply this thing to what you are saying now, you might as well apply it to the U.N.O. too, because U.N.O. people can import films and do the same things you are trying to avoid.

Senator A. E. Ukattah : I really agree with Senator H. O. Abaagu who said that the Minister was embarrassed. That is why he has run away.

The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Yussuf Maitama Sule) : On a point of order, the Minister had to go to Kaduna in the company of the hon. the Prime Minister on a very important state visit. I do not think he ran away.

The Chairman : Well, the radio said that the Minister accompanied President Sekou Toure.

Senator Ukattah : Well, I hope the man deputising for him will not be embarrassed too. I agree that if any diplomatic representative here does not like the Amendment we are making, he should advise his home Government to mete a similar measure to our own representative in his home country. I have no intention of withdrawing this Amendment because it is a reasonable one and I hope the Minister being a reasonable man will accept it. The hon. Minister knows that we are legislators. If the Minister will be in the court where this law will be interpreted that will be a different thing but he will not be there. The interpretation is for the Judiciary, and for any law to be accurately interpreted the interpretation must be based on what is written in the law, not what is implied. Here the Minister is asking us to accept what is implied—a mere hypothesis. You do not depend on that.

The point I am trying to make is that there is no provision, there is nothing to show, no proviso, to indicate that any film imported by any diplomatic representative, if it is to be shown to the public, will be subjected to the Censorship Board. There is nothing like that. Tell me how we can know, when it comes to interpreting this law, that what the Minister has in mind will be interpreted in court. That is my point. There is nothing to show that here and every Senator agrees with me that this Amendment is quite a reasonable one.

The Chairman : We will soon put the Question, so, do not claim that every Senator agrees with you.

Senator Ukattah : I beg to move.

Amendment proposed.

The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Yussuf Maitama Sule) : I am very grateful to you for coming to my rescue right from the very beginning because in this particular Clause, Senators should remember that there is the question of reciprocity. This particular clause applies to representatives of Commonwealth countries. It is a reciprocal treatment. If we do not provide the same treatment here in Nigeria we should not expect to be treated the same way. That is one thing.

Again, if it is going to be shown to groups of people or a group of people in a house and it is not meant for the members of the public, there is no need to have that censored. But when that Embassy wants to exhibit that particular film to members of the public, it must be done in approved premises in which case it has got to be censored or wherever it is going to be shown the censorship must take place.

Now, I will refer Senators to sub-clause 2 (a).

*"Nothing in this section shall apply,—
“(a) to any exhibition given in premises to which the public are not admitted ;”*

If the members of the public are admitted, then that film must be censored ; if they are not, there is then no question of censorship. Now, I would like to say, with very great respect to the Senators who have made contributions to this particular Bill, I am not a lawyer, but, perhaps, they are. Maybe Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku is, I do not know.

The Chairman : The Senator is a trade unionist.

The Minister of Mines and Power : But I am sure that Senators who are most reasonable—much more reasonable than most of us because of the mature experience they have had—will realise that we could not have inserted something in any Bill which will be detrimental to this country.

For this reason, I most respectfully say that we are opposed to the Amendment. There are good reasons. Good reasons have been adduced on the Floor of this House, but the reasons we have for amending the Bill as it is now are much more important and much stronger than those just given on the Floor of this House. I would therefore, ask the Senator to withdraw his Amendment, otherwise we shall have no alternative but to press for a division.

Question put, That the words proposed to be left out be left out.

The President : The Noes have it.

Senator Chief A. O. Fagbenro-Beyioku : I would like to press for a Division.

The President : That is not the way to press for a Division.

Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku : Mr President, I still like to press for a division.

The President : It is your entitlement, I will ask that the Roll be called now.

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : I do not see why we should waste time on this Bill. I do not see why we should belabour ourselves on this issue. It is a very simple Bill.

The President : And Senators are not thinking of their international treaties and commitments. Please call the Roll.

The Minister of Mines and Power : It has been rightly said that the way to press for a Division is to say "Aye" or "No".

The President : Senators do not even know how to press for a Division.

Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku : We do not want to be rowdy. We want to talk like

[SENATOR CHIEF FAGBENRO-BEYIOKU]
elderly people. We know how to shout "Aye" or "No" but we want to be elderly.

The President : Order, Order.

Question again put, and the Senate divided.

Senator A. E. Ukattah : A Senator is coming in, and Senators are shouting 'No' for him.

The President : I must point out that the House is going into a Division, some of the Members may be up there having tea. They do not know what it is all about. They are called in to come and say 'Aye'; they say so and walk out again without even knowing what it is all about. He has said 'No'.

Ayes 8

Noes 23

Abstention 1

Amendment accordingly negatived.

Clause 1—ordered to stand of the Bill.

Clause 2—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 3—FEDERAL CENSORSHIP BOARD, REGULATIONS.

Senator P. A. Ogunidipe : My Amendment is on Clause 3 (1).

The Minister of Mines and Power : May I respectfully say that we have not yet received any notice of that particular Amendment.

The Chairman : Order. The hon. Minister will have it just now. You should not forget that this is Committee Stage and it can be handed in across the Table, as was done yesterday.

Senator Ogunidipe : Clause 3 (1), line 14, after the words "fit persons" add the following words: "Including representatives of educational and religious leaders".

The Minister of Mines and Power : I am sure that those concerned may consider such representatives of educational and religious leaders as "fit persons" and in that case there is no point in pronouncing it in this Bill. If it is pronounced, I am not saying that representatives of educational and religious bodies are not fit, but there may be the occasion when it may not be expedient to include them. Under normal circumstances, "fit persons", be they representatives of educational or

religious bodies can become members as fit persons. A representative can be an educationist, a moslem leader or anybody else. In fact, at the moment I am informed that they are represented.

Senator Ogunidipe : I want to move this Amendment because the Ministers of State are politicians and the term "fit persons" which is very vague may be a hiding cloak for them to call in their political friends who in the eyes of the people may not be the type of persons who should deal with such an important matter as the censorship of cinematograph. Senators will agree with me that from the feelings expressed by this House it is clear that this matter, the Cinematograph Bill, is a very important one as it touches the very root of moral standards of our boys and girls, and even of men and women. We have heard many Senators speak about criminal tendencies that attend the filming of bad pictures in this country. For this reason I feel that we should not just make such a vague statement here by merely mentioning "fit persons". Otherwise, we may be disappointed to find that those who may be considered fit persons may not be those who are considered as such by the man in the street. They may be political friends of Ministers, and people who may be quite fit in other ways but not in this particular respect.

I hope therefore that the aim of the Minister may not be defeated because I remember yesterday when he spoke he made mention of religious standards. He said that films which scorn religion will not be allowed. In order that his aim will not be defeated I think we must be specific about those we call "fit persons". I think that educationists of great moral standard—

The Chairman : Order, order. I did not want to interrupt the Senator but I do not know if the Senator understood the point made by the Minister. I will put it bluntly. What the Minister is saying is that the term "fit and proper persons" is already large enough to include educationists and religionists. May I point out that the operative word is "may" in Clause 3—"the Minister may—". And if the Senator puts in "including" it does not even compel the Minister to bring an educationist or a religionist. I want the Senator to see the point so that he does not belabour this thing.

This is a Committee Stage and I am free to take part in the debate. (*Hear, hear*).

Senator Ogundipe : Whatever happens this is the proper time to give the warning that when the interpretation of the phrase "fit persons" is given the Minister should not overlook my suggestion that "fit persons" should include religious and educational leaders as well as people who are versed in our cultural and traditional laws.

Before I take my seat may I just point out what I consider to be a typographical error in paragraph 2 of Clause 3. The words "to made" should read "to make".

The Chairman : This is a point of grammar and it is well taken. But is the Senator substituting this for his former Amendment?

Senator Ogundipe : No. Mr President.

Senator Chief R. A. Umoh : My Friend, Senator Ogundipe, was not able to put forward his argument while moving his Amendment, nevertheless, I would like to second him.

Senators as well as Ministers are the representatives of the people of Nigeria, and we are trying to see to their well-being in everything. When we want to choose certain people to look into matters of this kind we should look for people who attend to both body and soul. They are two different and very important things. If we want to have good citizens we must take those who know the soul and those who know the body. When we talk of the soul we refer to the religious leaders, and when we talk of the body we refer to the educationists. These people should be among the members of the censorship Board.

The Minister of Health (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi) : On a point of order, we must not lose sight of the fact that "fit persons" does embrace religious leaders and any other persons who have good moral standing in the society. I think we are wasting a lot of time this morning by belabouring this point. And I think that we should make some progress.

The Chairman : Frankly, this is a waste of time because even if the Minister accepts and includes this Amendment it does not compel him to take educationists and religionists. The operative word there is "may". And then the Senator wants to add "including".

The Minister can take anybody. He can take a blacksmith or a cook. Unless the Senator who moved this Amendment has a different Amendment to make this present one does not bring out what he is trying to do. And in any case the Minister has already said that even in practise these people are in the Board we have at present. Frankly, I cannot imagine anybody in Nigeria forming a censorship board without putting in religious or educational people.

The Minister of Mines and Power : In fact any board which has something to do with morals.

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : But some religious people are not so religious after all.

Senator Ogundipe : That is a matter of opinion.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku : My main concern is about the security of the State, particularly now that we have all sorts of embassies and all sorts of representatives in this country. We are a young country, and my Amendment is in Clause 3 (2) (d) which says—

"Clause 3 page C16, line 32, leave out from "fit" to the end of line 33."

Then the clause will read thus :

"(d) for providing exemption from censorship of such classes of film as the board may think fit ;"

I think that is enough. But the clause seems to go further—

". . . or of any film intended to be exhibited before any particular group or groups of persons ;"

I feel that the Clause as it stands is dangerous to the security of this State.

The Minister might say that this applies to films shot by, and intended for, diplomatic representatives. Some of us who have been privileged to attend parties arranged by some of these diplomatic representatives know that it is the usual practice to treat guests to a film show after a dinner. The film show is just private and not for the general public, and if some of us had some intention, we could be indoctrinated from what we saw. We all know that in this country we have not only Commonwealth representatives, but also other foreign countries' representatives.

The President : Before the Senator goes further, I would like him to read his Amendment from (d) and add what he is trying to amend and see whether it is worth his while after all.

Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku : I think it is worth the while.

The President : Read it aloud.

Senator Beyioku : I will read it.

“(2) Without limiting the generality of the power to make regulations under this section, regulations may be made,—

(a) for prescribing the procedure to be followed for the censorship generally—”

The President : Then go on to (d)

Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku : “(d) for providing exemption from censorship of such classes of film as the board may think fit. . . .” and then it goes further to add that Regulations may be made for providing exemption for

“any film intended to be exhibited before any particular group or groups of persons ;”

The President : And your Amendment intends to do what ? I want to be told.

Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku : My own Amendment intends to remove the provision to exempt such classes of people.

The President : I do not want us to waste much time this morning. “May be made” may also imply “may not be made”. The law does not say “should be made” but “may be made”. and “should” is very different from “may”.

Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku : “May”, I know, is permissive in the true sense of the word.

The President : Why should we then waste the time of the House ?

Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku : But even then if you give the Minister power, why do we not say it should be “may” for such films ? If you say “may”, you have given the power. If you like you can make it ; if you like you cannot make it. Why not say clearly, “You must not make for such and such a thing” ? That is my own argument, because once the permissive clause is there, the Minister is vested with power to make if he likes to. It is to remove

that permissive power in respect of such films that shall be screened before a certain exclusive group which could be dangerous.

The President : Is the Senator saying that he does not want to make the Minister to be able to make regulation or what ?

Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku : I do not want the Minister to be able to make regulation for the exemption of films which shall be shown before certain particular group of people.

The President : May I ask the Senator a question. Suppose it is intended that a group of doctors want to see the nudity of a human being, and the Minister will not be able to make regulation allowing these doctors, for scientific reasons, to see what they had asked for ? That is what the Senator is saying.

The Minister of Mines and Power : On a point of information, I would like to draw the attention of the Senator to the fact (I know he is very intelligent and he will understand this) that this particular clause merely restricts the number of people to be in attendance. This exemption applies to religious bodies, scientific group, and it also affects those films that are to be shown for educational purposes.

Concerning the question of permissibility (or whatever you may like to call it) of this particular Clause, one can see that sometimes it may be necessary to make regulations exempting certain films, and sometimes it may not be necessary to make such regulations. Why do we not give the Minister power to make if he thinks it is necessary so to do, or not to make when he thinks it is necessary not to do so ? I think it will be much better that way, and the whole thing should be understood that both the Minister as well as the Senators are the people involved in this exercise, and they are primarily concerned with training the people and raising their morals.

Mention was made about politicians. Politicians may be teachers, religious leaders, and so on. Therefore, they are just as much interested as anybody else in this particular subject. I am not only a politician, but also I claim to be a religious leader and a teacher at the same time. In this context, I think that the whole thing can be understood, and I respectfully submit that while Senator Beyioku's argument is quite good, he was merely trying to strike the point home. I would only say,

in this connection, that the Government will consider this matter of whether or not we should make regulations exempting any particular film. I hope that with this assurance, the Senator will agree with me that we should go ahead.

Senator A. E. Ukattah : I think my Friend, Senator Chief Beyioku, will now think of withdrawing, knowing very well that in making the regulation, we shall rely on the Minister as a religious leader.

Senator J. K. Nzerem : I think we should not tie the hands of the Minister. I agree that it is necessary that in this country we must have honest and good Ministers, because a lot depends on what the Ministers themselves do in their capacity as the servants of the nation. I trust that our present Ministers are good, and I hope that in future we shall elect only good Ministers. I believe all of them are good. They are all intended to be good, and I hope they are.

Therefore let us trust that the Minister will be good in applying the law. We should not try to tie his hands, because if we carry this Amendment out, then his hands are tied. I think my Friend, Senator Chief Beyioku, (the unwigged lawyer of the trade union) should withdraw his Amendment.

Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku : I am very grateful to the Minister for the assurance that the Government will take note of this point when making the regulation. But I want to make this quite clear.

As someone who is in the picture and knows what is going on in this country to-day, my main anxiety is the security of the state. Most people may not know a lot of the subversive activities which have been going on. I have no quarrel with religious films or medical films, but I want to say that we have several representatives in this country, and we must not allow them to classify themselves as a group that could gather people together and indoctrinate them.

In view of the assurance given by the Minister, I have no objection in withdrawing the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 3—(FEDERAL CENSORSHIP BOARD : REGULATIONS), ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Part II, Clauses 4-7 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Part III, Clauses 8 and 9, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported, without Amendment, read the Third time and passed.

FIRE SERVICES BILL

9.50 a.m.

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Yusuff Maitama Sule) : I rise to move, That a Bill for an Act to make provisions for the organisation, discipline, powers and duties of the Federal Fire Service and for matters incidental thereto or connected therewith be read a Second time.

In April 1961 the Lagos Fire Brigade was transferred to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Although this transfer was made over two years ago, the Lagos Fire Brigade continues to operate under sections 44-54 of the Police Act, under powers delegated to the Federal Inspector of Fire Services in the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The purpose of this Bill, therefore, is to replace this administrative arrangement by permanent legislation and to provide for the improvement of the Fire Service.

In the current Economic Programme a substantial allocation has been made to modernise the Fire Service by providing up-to-date fire equipment and vehicles and satisfactory accommodation. It, therefore, seemed to Government to be of considerable advantage if, at the same time a more comprehensive legislation than that provided under the Police Act is introduced to ensure that we have a properly trained and well-equipped fire service, particularly in these days of increasing fire risks and losses arising out of the great development taking place in the Federal Territory of Lagos.

Apart from the actual fighting of fires, the Fire Service Division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs is continuously engaged in advising on the prevention of fires. So much depends on the general public taking action to prevent fires. So much money and property and lives can be saved through the prevention of fires than by the actual fighting of fires after they have broken out.

Part I of the Bill deals with the organisation and administration of the Federal Fire Service

[MINISTER OF MINES AND POWER]

to be employed for the extinguishment, control and prevention of fire, the saving and protection of life and property and for such other humanitarian and other works which may be required with the authority of the Minister of Internal Affairs. This part of the Bill provides for a Federal Fire Commissioner, previously designated as Federal Inspector of Fire Service, to be in charge of the Fire Service under the general orders and directions of the Minister of Internal Affairs.

This part of the Bill also gives the Minister powers to make provisions for fire fighting, fire prevention and the alleviation of distress by arranging for the necessary fire equipment, the efficient training of members of the Service, and for doing all such other things as are required to make for an efficient Service. The mode of enlistment and re-engagement of firemen is also provided for under this Part of the Bill. Provision has been included also to deal with the question of transfers of Police officers who are now in the Fire Brigade to the Fire Service.

Part II of the Bill deals with gratuities, annual allowances and pensions. In this connection, I would like to explain that the Enlistment, Gratuities and Pensions Clauses of the Police Act have been adopted in this Bill because of the probable transfer of the Police Fire Brigade staff to the Fire Services. The idea has been to keep the conditions of service of those transferred to the Fire Service not less advantageous than they are at present in the Fire Brigade. Some modifications have, of course, been necessary, but where this has been done, an improvement in the conditions of service, in the case of a transferred officer, has been the intention.

Part III of the Bill deals with the Provision of adequate water supply for fire fighting. The provisions under this Part of the Bill will make it possible for the Minister, after consultation with his Colleague the hon. Minister of Works and Surveys, to make regulations to ensure that adequate supply of water will be available to the Fire Service in case of fire. This Part of the Bill also contains provisions regarding appointments to the Fire Service and to the offices therein; training of members of the service; promotion, transfer, dismissal and disciplinary control of members of the Fire Service.

Part IV of the Bill deals with the powers of members of the Fire Service during fires. These include the regulation of traffic for the purposes of ensuring or expediting the free passage of any fire engine or mobile fire equipment while proceeding to fire.

Parts V and VI of the Bill deal with such miscellaneous provisions as the establishment of a Fire Service Reward Fund, injuries and damages caused by fire and various offences for contravening or failing to comply with the provisions of the Act. In addition, provisions is made for dealing with persons who impersonate members of the Fire Service and the communication of confidential or secret information by any member of the Fire Service obtained by him in the course of his duties.

Parts VII and VIII of the Bill contain the Interpretation and Application Clauses and require no further comments by me, save that sections 44-54 inclusive of the Police Act, in so far as they apply to the Federal Territory, will be repealed on the coming into effect of the Fire Service Act.

As can be seen from the contents of this Bill, I am sure that the Senate, that has been most reasonable all the time, will welcome the introduction of this Bill.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Health (Senator the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): I beg to second.

Senator M. B. Chukwubike: I have two points to make on this Bill. The Fire Service was formerly under the able control of the Police. Our most respected Prime Minister thought it wise to transfer it to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. I do not wish to challenge the integrity of our Prime Minister, but I think that it would be better were it to remain in the hands of the Police. When it is realised that the powers of the Minister of Internal Affairs are limited to Lagos, it will be seen that whatever we say on this Bill will only be applicable to Lagos. But if it is in the hands of the Police, it will be broader in outlook and will serve the whole Federation of Nigeria.

One other point which I would like to touch is that I cannot see the reason why the fire fighters should have such queer and unattrac-

I do not see why these people who will serve as civil servants in the Public Service should continue to reapply for re-engagement up to when they are forty-five. It does not make for security of appointment and it gives

earlier we get it hundred per cent Nigerianised the better. I should have been very happy if we had given this Bill general application throughout the Federation rather than leaving it to the Regions to legislate on their own. It

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tive conditions of service. With your permission, Mr Chairman, I would like to refer to Clause 8 of the Bill. It reads :

Re-engagement. (1) Any fireman of good character may within six months before completion of his first period of enlistment and with the prescribed approval, re-engage to serve for a further period of six years and may similarly re-engage for a second period of six years and may thereafter similarly re-engage either to serve until the expiration of a third period of six years or until he reaches the age of forty-five years (whichever is earlier)''.

Clause 8 (4) of the Bill goes further to say—

If a fireman offers to re-engage within six months after having received his discharge he will, if his offer of service is accepted, on re-engagement be entitled to the rank which he was holding at the time of his discharge, provided there is a vacancy in the establishment of that rank at the time he re-engages. If, however, no vacancy exists in the establishment of that rank at that time, he may be appointed to the nearest lower rank in the establishment of which a vacancy exists ; and he shall be entitled to promotion to the rank he was holding at the time of his discharge as soon after his re-engagement as a vacancy arises in the establishment of that rank.

What I am trying to point out is that this reapplying after working for sometime is very unpopular, and, therefore, it is bad. This, to my understanding, makes a very big loop hole for corruption and laxity. Only those who have nothing doing will take to Fire Fighting, and this will also result in inefficiency. I want the Minister to explain this point fully, otherwise I shall give notice of Amendment during the Committee Stage.

Lastly, I appeal that the Fire Service should be extended to the Regions. I know that it is not easy to have this in the Regions, but, at least, all the Regional Headquarters should have Fire Service.

I beg to support the Bill.

Senator P. A. Ogun-dipe : I agree that the Bill is welcome. The Fire Brigade has for a long time been one of the very important services which the Federal Territory has enjoyed, even in the colonial days. So, any Bill which now intends to improve the organisation and the administration of the Service

should be received with open arms for many reasons.

To mention one, at least, the country, particularly the Federal Territory, has by far increased its wealth more than it had in the colonial days. The national wealth is growing, and we are building up industries. We have so many important buildings and industries, and, of course, we are also building up our own sky-scrapers. The Federal Territory contains the property of not only the Federal Territory but also the landed property of all the Regions. For the protection of these as well as of individual property which is also growing in the Federal Territory, it is a welcome Bill. We do not want to wait until the day when, owing to improper Fire Service conditions, all these industrial buildings and other commercial buildings and properties would be razed down to the ground by fire. We are all proud of the national wealth which is embodied in the Federal Territory. I personally commend the great efforts of the Minister of Internal Affairs for getting up all the details of this very important Bill.

The Bill has erred in this respect that it has no consideration for human relationship and service conditions of the Firemen. As a Senator who has just spoken on it has said, the Bill has not considered the welfare of the people in the Service. It is not sufficient to say that the service conditions of the Firemen are far from being enviable. In fact, it is badly short of that of the past imperial lords of the manor houses of the medieval age.

The Firemen are expected to risk their lives in the presence of burning fire in order to save the nation's properties, without any security to their own lives. As my hon. Friend who has previously spoken on this Bill has said, I consider it a very obnoxious service condition for a man who has had professional training for three years to be required to reapply six months before the expiration of the three years if he is of good character. He should even be of good character before he could reapply.

I feel that if, after a person has been in the Service learning some special art for three years, he is of good character, he should automatically continue in the service. If he is of bad character, he should have been sacked

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question of repeated enlistment. There is this question of one giving say six months' notice after three years and being re-enlisted and then continuing for six years. Other than that, I have no quarrel.

Some Senators have said that adequate provisions were not made for these fire men in the form of gratuities and pensions. I disagree with them because in Part II of the Bill,—paragraph 10, we see a lot about gratuities, and even if a fireman dies by accident, that fireman is adequately cared for. I would ask Senators to turn to paragraph 13 (1) and with your permission Mr President, I quote :

"Where a fireman who has completed more than three years continuous service dies while serving in the Fire Service, the Minister on the recommendation of the Fire Service Commissioner may grant to his estate or to any person being a relative or dependant of such fireman, in addition to any other gratuities payable under the provisions of section 10, a sum not exceeding one year's pay."

I think in all respects every aspect of the fireman's life is properly looked after and I think it is a progressive piece of legislation, and from time to time any piece of legislation shall be modified in the light of modern experience and development.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Senator Chief Ezeogo Ugwuocha, Uka of Edda : This is a non-controversial Bill, but I have one observation to make. What is the need of transferring a policeman who has entered the Force to Fire services. Some people entered the Police Force because of desire and choice. Now that these policemen have been employed because of their desire to serve in the Police Force, I do not see the need for transferring them back to another service which they may not like. That is the only observation I have to make.

Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu : I rise to support this Bill. This Bill as it stands is not a quarrelsome Bill, but I have a little observation to make. The first is the question of transferring the Fire Service to the Ministry of Internal Affairs especially at this time when we are all talking of the unity of this Federation. May I ask the Minister concerned through the President, to give us an adequate explanation

as to whether the whole Regions are included? Are the Regions going to control their own services? I am saying this because the transfer of this Fire Service to the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Lagos will only be applicable to the firemen in Lagos. If this is so, there is danger ahead because it implies that the Regions will have to legislate on their own separate fire services and by doing this, the police may be regionalised and nobody prays for this type of thing.

Another thing is that in section 8 mention was made of 45 years. The question of this 45 years service limit has been discussed in this House on several occasions and it was clearly stated that this 45 years age limit was made to suit the purposes of the British administrators because they did not want to go home in their old age. They limited the age to 45 years so that they may go home young, in order that they may secure another employment in their country. But now that we are independent I do not see why we should stick to this age limit of 45 years. On several occasions questions have been raised on this subject but the reply has always been given in a diplomatic way "that it is receiving the consideration of the Government." I wonder why it should come up again in this new Bill. In fact, if this age limit had been applied some of us Senators might not have been here to-day.

The President : May I point out to the Senator that you have to be over forty to be here.

Senator Acholonu : I am saying that the Government should see to it that this question of age limit is rectified, or if possible should make a categorical statement about it.

Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku : On a point of order, the Senator is looking at Senator Firemen.

Senator Acholonu : I am trying to see certain sections.

The President : The Senator can raise that in Committee.

Senator Acholonu : Yes, Mr President. All, I am saying is that the Government should look very closely and see that this question of age limit is corrected.

Our people here are working well at the age of 45. Each and every one of them can, so let us give them that latitude. I am more

imposed on a man to submit himself for medical examination from time to time. But if the main intention is to ensure that a man is medically fit and that is why he should be

nearest lower rank—
There lies the point. Tell me why he should be placed at a disadvantage. If a man is re-engaged and there is no vacancy in that

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than 45 years of age now, and I am doing all kinds of business at home without hiring anybody.

Therefore, I support this Bill.

Senator A. Nwoke : I rise to support this Bill. It is a very important Bill indeed, and I have to congratulate the Minister who has taken such pains to present it. Nonetheless, I consider it very essential to make proper arrangements to control fire because what took a man many years to build or preserve could be consumed by fire within the twinkle of an eye.

There is one observation I would like to make. I am conscious of the fact that fire is a residual subject, and I am interested in the provision of section 20 that if a major disaster occurs certain things should be done. That is to say if there is a major disaster in the Region, and provided also that the Commissioner of Police or the Fire Service Officer of that Region so desires and so requests, the Federal Government would run to their aid and give personal advice. That is applying medicine after death. Why could the Federal Government not make such a provision in anticipation of a disaster ?

Let us take the case of Oloibiri Oil Well in Port Harcourt in the Eastern Region, in which the Federal Government is interested. Supposing there is fire there and the Commissioner of Police or the person in charge of Fire Service in that place makes an application, it is certain before any help gets there everything could be destroyed. The whole thing should be changed to make quick action possible. In other words, make it possible for the Federal Government to control Government properties within the Federation.

With this, Sir, I beg to support.

Senator Malachias Bawa : I see no reason for delaying this Bill. The only observation I want to make is that fire service is such an important service which I would like the Federal Government to provide throughout the Federation. Many people who amassed wealth or who had already become wealthy have been ruined in many places through the lack of this service. So, I advise that this service should not be restricted to the Federal Territory or to certain urban areas.

The question of the condition of service of fire men is not a new thing as I see it. It is only a transfer of the former condition of Police and Soldiers of those days. The main difference is in the question of age limit which is said to be 45. A man of 45 is still going strong and can do any good service. So, I suggest that the age limit should be 65. People could continue in the service till that time. When a man has been engaged all his life in one particular job, he can hardly do anything else. So, we should allow him to continue in his job until he is 65.

I support the Bill.

The Minister of Mines and Power : I wish to say first of all, how extremely grateful I am to the Senators for the contributions they have made. Most of the points they have raised are similar, so I do not intend to take them one by one ; so if you do not mind, I would like to give a general reply to the various points raised.

The question has been raised as to why this particular subject has been transferred to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. I would like to say that it is the practice all over the world that fire service comes under the Home Secretary. In our case, the Minister of Internal Affairs is the equivalent of the Home Secretary and for this reason and for the efficient running of the service, it is now under his Ministry. This is in keeping with the practice all over the world, and we are not doing anything that is strange.

But you will notice also that we are responsible for fire service in Lagos. Fire Service is on the Concurrent List. Both the Federal Government and the Regional Governments can legislate on this particular subject and the Federal Government cannot arrogate to itself, in a matter like this, the power to legislate for the other Regions unless the other Regions have already requested us to do so. We are therefore not interfering with the Regional Governments' power or authority and we do not think that it is right to do so. But I would say that both the Eastern and the Western Regions have got their own Fire Service. I understand that the Northern Regional Government is going to have one very soon. But even then, some Native Authorities in the Northern Region have got Fire Services.

[MINISTER OF STATE]

Royal Nigerian Army Act in line with the normal practice in other armies throughout the world, a Bill of this nature is necessary in the interests of peace and concord in the Royal Nigerian Army.

In the British Army, for example, a commanding officer may only award summary punishments involving severe reprimand or reprimand and admonition to non-Commissioned Officers. He has no powers of dismissal or of reduction in ranks, and such powers are normally conferred upon highly responsible officers or bodies.

The present Bill seeks to ensure the following:—

(a) that commanding officers should retain their power of reducing Lance-Corporals in rank;

(b) that powers of summary dismissal and of reducing in rank non-commissioned officers other than Lance-Corporals be vested in the General Officer-Commanding the Royal Nigerian Army, with the provision that he may delegate the powers of reduction in rank from full corporal to lance-corporal to Brigadiers.

I would also like to invite the attention of Senators to the fact that the Army Council also sits as the highest appeal body to which these matters are ultimately referred.

Mr President, the purpose of the Bill is to protect the interest of other ranks. The Bill is non-controversial and I hope it will have an easy passage by the Senators.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Health (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): I beg to second.

Senator H. O. Abaagu: I have no quarrel with this Bill now that the question of meting punishment is reserved for the senior officers of the Force. It is time we encouraged the other ranks in the Army because the Army being a very tough job, is not attractive to our youngmen. Therefore, it will be more distasteful to the youngmen if conditions in the Army are very tough. Anybody who enlists in the Army now is sure not to be subjected to arbitrary punishment. I think that is an attraction. The Bill is welcome.

Senator S. Eytayo: I also rise in support of the Bill. As has been said by the Minister, the Bill is non-contentious at all.

Even in the schools, it is now against Government policy for teachers to flog their children. If there is any child who does something bad in the classroom, the class-teacher reports the child to the Headmaster who has the authority to say whether or not the child should be flogged. All that the Bill seeks is to give power to the higher ranks of the Army to mete out punishment instead of the junior officers.

As I said before, the Bill is non-controversial and therefore I support.

Senator Abdul Salami Yusifu: As a veteran soldier, I think I have to contribute to this Bill which is non-contentious.

With the experience I had in the Army, I think it is quite advisable that this method should be adopted. While I was in the active service, some commanding officers were really hostile and in exercise of their exclusive power, they used to indict some of the junior officers unnecessarily, either to reduce them in rank or to punish them. If such authority or power had been given only to the senior officers like Lieutenant-Colonel or Major, the whole thing would have been somewhat different. For instance, some commissioned officers because of petty jealousy and hatred, used to go from house to house checking the non-commissioned officers and say that they had left their arms scattered or that they did not attend the tattoo. At times, the commissioned officers would say they did not comply with the Army Training Ordinance, and then start inflicting unnecessary punishment. I think this is the type of thing that the Government is trying to remove, which is, of course, very essential.

I also noticed while in the Army on many occasions that punishments which became exclusive to some of the officers in fact were indiscriminately used because there was no such order laid down. Now that it has been laid down, it is good. In the country there is freedom of movement, but in the Army the freedom of movement is limited.

With these few remarks, I support the Bill.

Minister of State (Hon. Ibrahim Tako Galadima): I am very grateful to the Senators who have made such nice contributions, especially to the Senator who was speaking from experience. I think his enlightenment to the Senate shows how justified we are in bringing this Bill into the House.

Thank you.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time ; immediately considered in Committee ; reported, without Amendment ; read the Third time and passed.

MEDICAL AND DENTAL PRACTITIONERS BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Health (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): I beg to move, That a Bill for an Act to regulate the Medical and Dental Professions and for purposes connected therewith, be read a Second time.

This Bill seeks to regulate the practice of medicine and dentistry in this country. Hitherto, the practice of medicine and dentistry had been controlled by the Medical and Dental Practitioners Ordinance. This old Ordinance was based on the United Kingdom Medical Act and our practices in this country with regard to the regulation of the medical profession were based on the United Kingdom practices. But there are aspects of these practices which are now no longer compatible with the independent and sovereign status of Nigeria. Before a Medical Practitioner is registered to practise in this country his qualifications must first of all be acceptable to the General Medical Council of Great Britain and Ireland. This has created a great many anomalies in the form of our nationals who go to Medical Schools in foreign countries like Germany, Italy, France and so on being refused registration to practise here simply because their qualifications are not acceptable to the General Medical Council of Great Britain and Ireland. Therefore, this Bill desires to correct this anomaly, and hence it is brought to the Senate for approval. In fact, it is a non-contentious and progressive Bill which is compatible with the independent status of this country.

This Bill seeks further to regulate the concept of medical education. Senators are all aware that for some time now, we have had a Medical School in Ibadan. The standard of training in that Medical School compares favourably with the standard of training in Great Britain. Now, it is proposed to establish more Medical Schools in this country so that we may produce more doctors and as such, it is necessary that we should establish a Nigerian standard to which all doctors who want to practise in this country must conform—whether they train in Nigeria, Great Britain or

America or even any other part of the world. We know that we have the material here. We have very highly qualified men and women who are capable of training doctors. We have in the University of Lagos the Dean of the Medical School who is a very highly qualified Nigerian himself, and the Dean and his vice Dean have organised a very highly thought of Medical School which have been acclaimed by the Medical Profession throughout the world as a very very highly organised Medical School indeed. This school is indeed functioning and it has admitted Nigerians.

When this Bill comes into law, the education which will be given to the medical students there, will conform to the standards which will be acceptable throughout the Federation. That is what this Bill seeks to do. I do not think it is contentious in the least, and I am sure it is very progressive and seeks to collate all the existing legislation on this subject. I commend this Bill to the House, and I hope that it will have an easy passage.

I beg to move.

Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Alhaji Ibrahim Tako Galadima): I beg to second.

Senator J. K. Nzerem: I think this is a very good Bill, and I should have been surprised if a bill of this nature was not brought to Parliament. Since our Minister of Health is himself a very distinguished medical man, I know that he has the interest of the medical profession at heart, and I also know that he will do every thing possible to bring the medical profession in this country up to the highest standard that one can think of.

The Bill is a very welcome one, but there is one thing that often surprises me. In our Medical School at Ibadan one finds that boys who are refused admission go to England or other places and get admission easily. I cannot understand why we should aim at such an inordinate standard, a standard which is higher than in countries where there are many doctors. One should have thought that if the standard in this country is lowered to a certain extent, it will not be disadvantageous. We want many doctors.

I was reading the other day a report from U.N.E.S.C.O. and it was about the ratio of doctors to the population in various countries of the world. Do you know that that of Nigeria

[SENATOR NZEREM]

seemed to be one of the lowest? We have one doctor to about a hundred thousand people in this country, whereas in some countries in Europe they have one doctor to about eight hundred people. In spite of this, we insist on such a very high standard that is almost impossible to attain. While I agree that the Medical Profession should be of such a high standard that one should feel safe in the hands of a doctor, I do not think it is necessary to make the standard so unreasonably high.

I congratulate the Minister on trying to correct this nonsense of regarding people who qualified as Medical practitioners in Germany, America and other foreign countries as holding inferior qualifications. After all, German doctors are supposed to be among the best in the world and American doctors are first class. I do not know why we should reject them in Nigeria. I am happy this has been rectified. In fact, it is a thing to be proud of. We are glad that our Minister of Health has thrown overboard this anomaly.

I have read through the Bill and found nothing that we should quarrel about, except to congratulate the Minister on introducing this Bill.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Senator Chief S. O. Esangbedo : I rise to support this Bill. This Bill is non-controversial. However, I have some comments to make about the statement made by the Minister of Health on the proposed new Lagos Health Services Bill. The Minister said that the new Health Services Bill which the Government proposes to introduce—

Senator J. K. Nzerem : On a point of order, the Senator is discussing the Lagos Medical Health Scheme, which is entirely different from what we are debating at the moment.

The President : The point of order is well taken. This Bill is not what you are debating now. The one you are talking about is the one you read in the newspaper.

Senator Chief Esangbedo : But a copy of this statement was distributed.

The President : Order, order. Senators, let us debate the actual Bill.

Senator Chief Esangbedo : Anyway, I support the Bill.

Senator A. Nwoke : This is a very good Bill. I have to congratulate the hon. Minister of Health on taking pains to go into details as to administration and regulation of the medical profession.

I have an observation to make about the registration of trained doctors. In clause 7, section (2)—under qualification—it is enumerated that unless a Nigerian-trained doctor possesses a Bachelor's or Master's degree or even a higher degree for that matter—a Bachelor's or Master's degree in Dentistry—he is not to be registered.

I consider it a little bit out of the way if we have some Licentiates of British Universities practising as doctors in Nigeria. Where are we heading to if our own locally produced men cannot be recognised unless they hold degrees from other Universities?

In the second place, we have under certain *Gazette* publication some types of doctors who are not encouraged to register. Some of them may be trained in the Iron Curtain countries, but there is no reason why that discrimination should come about. There should be international recognition of such qualifications. Once a doctor always a doctor. Alternatively, let the Nigerian Medical Association get the curricula of the various Universities of the world and compare them. Certainly, if the standard in our Universities is very low, there is no reason why we should recognise the degree, otherwise we have no reason for failing to register them as fully qualified doctors. It serves no purpose to accept one degree and refuse some others. Once a person is qualified he should be accepted.

I consider that the Minister of Health should go into this matter once more and let the public take a decision once and for all. Once a doctor is qualified anywhere in the world, he is qualified.

With these few remarks, I support the Bill.

Senator Chief P. C. Ndu : This is a welcome Bill which is not controversial. I like to add nothing again other than to congratulate the Minister of Health and the Federal

Government on introducing this Bill. There was a time when it was almost impossible for an average man who had got the fund to send his son to read medicine overseas. Now, it has come to our very doors. It is even very possible that where the fund is not available immediately, it may be found in two or three months' time, and it is very easy for one to reach our Universities here.

In those days, when one wanted to go to America one would continue to apply, and would be delayed for a long time before he could get through. I remember in 1949 when I wanted to send somebody I suffered a lot. That man was away for about ten years before he became an M.B. But here in Nigeria things are much easier for us since the medical schools have now been established in Ibadan and Lagos. I congratulate the Government on bringing the Bill and also on establishing a Law School in Nigeria.

I commend the Bill, and I support it.

Senator A. E. Ukattah : Without any yard stick for the goodness of this Bill, I think it is a fact that there has been no protest from the Nigerian Medical Association, as was the case when the National Health Scheme was introduced.

This Bill has much to commend it to the approval of Senators. Among the commendable provisions is clause 12 which makes provision for a disciplinary tribunal and an investigating panel. This is very commendable. The two bodies would be charged with responsibility for safeguarding professional conduct. We know that for the present, it is not all well for most of our young doctors. A case in view is the question of procuring abortion. Some of the doctors that I know make love to their female staff, using their consulting room for romance. This is the sort of thing that we want to check. The two bodies set up here will look into this type of nonsense.

What I have to add here is that the men who will be appointed into these two bodies—the tribunal and the investigating panel—must be men who have been tested and whose character is exemplary. They should be able to handle matters of this nature coming forward to them.

Another point is the point already touched by earlier speakers—the question of abolishing the old British policy of not recognising doctors from America. That was an old British trick by which the country was made the preserve of the English doctors. I am happy that this Bill has come in to wipe that away and to make it possible for suitably qualified doctors from any part of the world, once recognised, to practise in Nigeria, because we are in great need of medical facilities, and we cannot afford to keep away doctors just because they do not come from a particular region.

And it being 11.45 a.m. the President proceeded to interrupt the Business of the House, pursuant to Standing Order 5 (3).

Debate to be resumed upon Monday next.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Senate do now adjourn (THE MINISTER OF HEALTH).

THE STATE VISIT OF M. SEKOU TOURE

Senator J. K. Nzerem : I would like to take this opportunity to extend the welcome of the Senate to the President of Guinea, Monsieur Sekou Toure. It is a pity that Parliament was not given an opportunity of seeing this great son of Africa and of getting him to speak to us in this Senate, or in the House of Representatives. But I know that the Government has a very good intention. The time factor appears to be against the Government, and the very fact that the Government has made some provision for him to go and see the Regional Capitals is an indication that the Government has very good intention.

We extend to that great son of Africa our hearty welcome, and we are looking forward to the time when all African countries, no matter whether they are in the southern or northern part of the Sahara, should be regarded as one. We also look forward to the time when they will all be free and happy, no matter in what part of Africa they are.

We extend to this great son of Africa a hearty welcome.

THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S TOUR
OF THE WEST

Senator E. A. Lagunju : We all realise that our Governor-General, that illustrious son of Africa, is now paying his first official visit to the Western Region of Nigeria. I bring this matter up here because, since the Governor-General started his tour I have been going through the newspapers with keen interest. I remember that when the Governor-General toured the Northern Region, enough publicity was given to the tour, and a similar publicity was given to his tour of the Eastern Region. It is surprising that if one glances through the newspapers one can see only very little about the Governor-General's tour.

In one of the newspapers I was reading this morning it was reported this morning that the Governor-General was 'mobbed' at a particular place. The expression 'mob' is very irritating. I doubt if there is any place where the Governor-General was mobbed. I am not holding brief for a particular set of people, but I know, the people in that area very well, and the use of the word 'mob', to me, is not only depressing but irritating. I think it is the duty of the Ministry of Information to give wide publicity to the Governor-General's tour of the Western Region, particularly since this is his first official tour since independence.

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba : I think it is in keeping with common parliamentary practice that at every week-end the leader of the Senate should give us a resume of what we will do here the following week. At least we would like to know what is in store for us next week. It is not fair that we should come here next week with a very vague idea of what we are coming to do.

Senator H. O. Abaagu : On the complaint lodged by Senator Lagunju, I think that all the papers I have read since the Governor-General started the tour of the Western Region carried news and stories about the tour. Certain papers even published pictures of Chiefs, Ministers, the Premier and others welcoming the Governor-General. About the place where they said that the Governor-General was mobbed, I think that word "mobbed" is not used there in a bad sense, or suggesting bad feelings. It means, to my

understanding, that the number of people who came to welcome him was very great. A very big crowd met him and that is why that word "mobbed" was used.

Senator P. A. Ogundipe : I want to draw the attention of this House to a report made in the *Daily Times* of to-day about the activities of the Senate yesterday, and to warn the press reporters that they should try to be very accurate in their reports. In this issue of the paper it is reported that Senators delayed the Bill. In the first place, the Cinematograph Bill was debated but the debate was only adjourned and therefore Senators could not have delayed it. At the end it says—

"Owing to the stormy debate and the uncompromising views expressed by the Senators, the Bill was not passed and further debate on it will continue on Monday".

I do not know who said that. If we had postponed the debate on the Bill we could not have continued the debate to-day. The press reporters should kindly listen and give the public the right impression of what is going on. They have been criticised severally. But in this particular case to delay a Bill means that the Bill was not passed but was postponed, in fact until another session, which is not true. The President did not say that the Bill will be delayed until Monday. I have just brought this in order to correct further irregularity.

The President : May I say something about this. I do not think that the Senator's report is far away from what really happened. There was a stormy debate as they said. But the main point was that during the stormy debate the time for closing came up and we closed. The truth is that there was a stormy debate. They did not say that we deferred the Bill. They said the Bill was delayed. If the word "delayed" is not used in a technical sense then they are not far wrong. But if it is used in a technical sense they are far wrong. I think we should not mind it because the difference is not very much.

Senator H. N. Udoh : I only wish to make a request as to whether it will be possible for the Minister of Health to arrange for us, as he has done in the past, to visit the railway workshop and see certain things there.

The Minister of Health (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): I will certainly be very happy indeed to arrange for Senators who wish to visit the railway workshop or any other installation in Lagos, and Government offices and hospitals, to do so before they return to their homes.

Unfortunately I cannot give Senators the precise business for next week as Senator Alhaji Garba had requested because we have not finished the Bills listed on the Order Paper. We will certainly continue with them on Monday. At the end of that we hope to take the Appropriation Bill. Tuesday is normally Private Members' Day. Unless Senators wish to forego their right to debate their own Motions then we shall take Government business on that day. But if they wish to use the Private Members' Day to debate

their Motions then we shall have to sit on Wednesday. If we do not finish our business on Wednesday then we shall continue on Thursday.

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale : According to the explanation which has just been given by the hon. Minister of Health I think that the Senator asked for this for just one reason. Time for the *Idul Kabir* festival is fast approaching. In fact it comes up on Friday next. It is a pity that we should be kept here until Thursday.

The Minister of Health : If Senators may wish to forego their right on Tuesday then we will take Government business on that day.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Senate do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at twelve noon.

EDUCATION

Old Senator Chief A. O. Fagbemi : Before we start our discussion on the Education Bill, I would like to mention that the Government has been successful in securing employment and for many months.

The Minister of Education (Hon. A. O. Fagbemi) : The Senate is not only the guardian of the Bill, but also the guardian of the Bill. The Bill is not only the guardian of the Bill, but also the guardian of the Bill. The Bill is not only the guardian of the Bill, but also the guardian of the Bill.

Senator Chief A. O. Fagbemi : I have just now done the motion and the motion will be done.

The Minister of Education : It is the duty of the Senate to ensure that the Bill is passed. It is the duty of the Senate to ensure that the Bill is passed. It is the duty of the Senate to ensure that the Bill is passed.

The Minister of Health (Hon. M. A. Majekodunmi) : The Senate is not only the guardian of the Bill, but also the guardian of the Bill. The Bill is not only the guardian of the Bill, but also the guardian of the Bill.

The Private Member : The Senate is not only the guardian of the Bill, but also the guardian of the Bill. The Bill is not only the guardian of the Bill, but also the guardian of the Bill.

COMMUNICATIONS

Radio and Television

Old Senator A. E. Gbajabiam : I would like to know whether the Minister of Communications will be able to give us the full details of the Bill.

The President : The Minister of Communications will be able to give us the full details of the Bill.

Senator Chief A. O. Fagbemi : I would like to know whether the Minister of Communications will be able to give us the full details of the Bill. It is the duty of the Senate to ensure that the Bill is passed.

SENATE OF THE FEDERATION OF
NIGERIA

Monday, 29th April, 1963

The Senate met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Police Establishment

O.14. Senator A. E. Ukattah asked the Prime Minister, whether in view of the rapid expansion of Umuahia-Ibeku and the corresponding startling increase in crime wave, he will consider the desirability of increasing the Police strength there.

The Minister of Health (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): The answer to this question will be printed in the Official Report. Unfortunately, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister is not here this morning to answer the Question.

The Answer is as follows:—

The Prime Minister: The Survey of Police Establishment recognised the growing importance of Umuahia and recommended that the present establishment be increased to that of a Standard Major Rural Police Station. The increase will be worked out by phases according to the funds available.

COMMUNICATIONS

Oloko Postal Agency

O.15. Senator A. E. Ukattah asked the Minister of Communications whether he will consider taking over the mail route of the Oloko Postal Agency in Bende Division.

The President: The Minister of Communications.

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku: We would like to know exactly whether these Questions were not actually passed to the Ministers concerned. With reference to the answer given by the Minister of Health to Question O.14 I think, as a matter of protocol and Constitution, Parliamentary Secretaries are not expected in this House. They are not.

The Minister of Health: When these Questions are listed they are usually passed to each respective Ministry, and if the Minister concerned is not able to be present an arrangement is usually made with another Minister to come here and answer the Questions, and in the Lower House, of course, these Questions are handled by Parliamentary Secretaries.

I quite agree that Parliamentary Secretaries have no *locus standi* in the Senate. But, certainly, there are two Ministers of State in the Prime Minister's Office, and normally they should be here if these Questions are listed and I wish to assure the Senate that the answers to these questions will be printed in the Official Report.

The Answer is as follows:—

The Minister of Communications: It is not the normal policy to accept responsibility for the conveyance of mail between a Postal Agency and its parent Post Office. This is laid down in Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1957.

The Ministry is responsible for conveyance of mail between Sub-Post Offices and Post Offices.

EDUCATION

O.20. Senator Chief A. O. Fagbenro-Beyioku asked the Minister of Education, how many students left Secondary Schools in Lagos last year; how many of them have succeeded in securing employment and how many remain unemployed.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): The Answer is not ready yet. The release of the result of the West African School Certificate this year was delayed due to the fact that one or two examiners did not submit their papers in time. The results are just out, and as a result it is impossible to know those who have passed their examinations and those who have been employed. Therefore, it is absolutely impossible for this Question to be answered now.

Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku: How soon does the Minister feel that the Answer will be ready?

The Minister of Education: If the Senate is still sitting when the Answer will be ready then it will be circulated, but, if not, and if the Question lapses, then it can be brought up at a convenient time when the Senate will be sitting.

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : How soon will the Answer be made available? The Senate cannot be sitting between now and the end of June or August. We want a definite time when this Answer will be made available.

The Minister of Education : As soon as possible.

LABOUR

Nigerian Workers in Fernando Po

O.22. Senator Salahu Fulani asked the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, whether he is aware of the hardship suffered by Nigerians in Fernando Po and what arrangements he is making towards easing the situation.

The Minister of Health : I am not aware of the hardship which the Senator claims any Nigerian in Fernando Po suffers. To the best of my knowledge a majority of the Nigerian workers who return to Nigeria at the end of their first or second contracts offered voluntarily to go back to the Island on a fresh contract.

The wages and conditions of employment of Nigerian workers in Fernando Po and Rio Muni have improved substantially in the past few years, and, in particular, wages were increased by over one hundred *per cent* in 1961 when I led a Parliamentary delegation to the Island. Only a few weeks ago I concluded negotiations with a Spanish delegation on further improvement in the conditions of employment of Nigerian workers serving in Fernando Po and Rio Muni.

WORKS AND SURVEYS

Ilorin-Bussa Road

O.24. Senator Salahu Fulani asked the Minister of Works and Surveys if he will consider taking over the Ilorin-Bussa Trunk 'B' Road in view of the ever-increasing volume of traffic on that road and the proposed Niger Dam project.

The President : The Ministry of Works and Surveys.

Senator Salahu Fulani : I would like to say that this particular Question is of very great interest to the people of Ilorin, and I would welcome an answer to the Question now.

The President : What really happens, as Senators know, is that if the Minister concerned is not present to answer to a Question, the Answer will appear in tomorrow's *Hansard*, if the Answer is available.

At this point, on behalf of the Senators, I am going to speak out. All this time Senators have been saying that this House is being played down. I have deliberately resisted making a comment. This morning it will be noticed we did not come in on time. What was the reason?

The Serjeant-at-Arms of the Lower House was reported to be indisposed and our own Serjeant-at-Arms was removed to the House of Representatives, and they wanted a policeman to lead me into the Senate and I refused. (*Applause*). I refused to come in and so they had to send for our Serjeant-at-Arms from the Lower House.

Now we have a number of Questions and there is nobody to answer them. If the Government want to scrap this House let them do so. We have been bearing this sort of treatment for a long time and I want to add my own voice to the voices of Senators, speaking from the Chair. We have got a series of Questions and there is nobody to answer them.

The Minister of Health : I wish to apologise to the President for the cause of this lapse this morning. Unfortunately, we have an august visitor in this country with us and the Lower House is also sitting, and business is going on in both Houses concurrently.

I assure you, Mr President, that this has caused a lot of hardship in the Ministries and I do not think there are Ministers of this Government who would deliberately take any action which might besmear the honour and dignity of this House; and on behalf of my Colleagues I tender an unreserved apology.

Senator Chief J. S. Olayeye : It is not my pleasure to listen to what the Minister is saying. Every time we complain about these things he rises and says he is sorry. We are being ignored in this House and we are being made to be rubber stamp Senators. I do not think that the apology shall be taken in this House.

The President : Order! The Chair is prepared to accept the apology, but this must not happen again. We do not insist that a particular Minister must be here, but his Answers can be handed to another Minister because we are working under the doctrine of collective responsibility. We do not say if there is a Question to the Minister of Communications, the Minister must necessarily

[THE PRESIDENT] come here personally to answer. But surely he can give the answer just as the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare had given an Answer to a Question to the Minister of Health. Senators will remember that the Leader of the Senate answered that Question. They should have prepared their Answers and given them to Leader of this House and he shall answer all the Questions for them. But if they insist on treating us like this then we will ask them to scrap the Senate and we will all go back to our farms.

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale : I thank the President of the Senate for the statement he has just made this morning. This is the first time we have heard anything from him regarding our complaints about the attitude of Ministers towards the Senate. We are glad that the President has taken notice of it and has spoken out on our behalf.

We hope the Minister of Health who is the Leader of the Senate will take this matter very seriously and present our views to the Government. We anxiously expect that the position will be remedied as has been requested by our President.

The President drew attention to the fact that the questions intended for the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare were answered by the Minister of Health. To this arrangement we have no objection ; what we object to is the attempt not to answer the Questions at all. We hope this view will be seriously taken note of by the Government, and as the President has said, we hope these things will never occur again.

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : I wish, Mr President, to support Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale, who has just spoken. We were all under the impression that the President was supporting the Government. I must confess that to you, Sir.

The President : I will never support anything that is wrong.

Senator Asemota : I am very glad now that you have made this clear to us and we are most grateful. You have, yourself, seen, Sir, the type of treatment we have been receiving from the Government and now that you have made your position clear to everybody, I think that the Government will respect your views, if they refuse to respect the views of other Senators.

The President : We will now go to the other Questions which can be answered.

EDUCATION

Foreign Scholarships

O.31. Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : asked the Minister of Education, how many of the Scholarships awarded to Nigeria by Foreign Governments went to each of the Regions and the Mid-West.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku) : Since October 1962, 35 foreign scholarships have been taken up by students. The remainder are still being processed. The regional distribution of these 35 scholarships is as follows :

Federal	..	..	..	..	4
West	..	..	..	..	7
East	..	..	..	..	6
North	..	..	..	..	18

No separate figures are available for the Mid-West since distribution was based on regions already created.

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba : I want Mr President, to ask Question No. O.32 and Question No. O.37 as one Question because I wonder if the Answer to Question O.37 will make any sense without the Answer to Question O.32.

The President : I think the Minister has the answer to Question No. O.37.

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba : Yes, but I would like the two Questions to be answered together. That will make more sense than if they are taken separately.

The President : Let us wait to see whether the Answer will make any sense.

TRANSPORT AND AVIATION

Goods Trains

O.33. Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba asked the Minister of Transport, how long a goods train carrying perishable and unperishable goods normally takes from Lagos to Kano, Jos and Port Harcourt and *vice versa*, and also from Port Harcourt to Kano and *vice versa*.

Minister of State (Hon. Mbazulike Amечи) : The following are the normal

transit times of perishable and ordinary goods trains—

TRANSIT TIMES IN HOURS

Station		Perishable	Ordinary
		Goods Train	Goods Train
Lagos-Kano..	..	42	48
Kano-Lagos..	..	41	46
Lagos-Jos ..	..	44	49
Port Harcourt-Kano		41	45
Kano-Port Harcourt		48	51

During the season these periods may be exceeded due to increase in the number of trains running. There are no perishable goods trains from Jos to Lagos nor from Lagos to Port Harcourt and from Port Harcourt to Lagos. Unperishable goods are carried by the ordinary passenger trains.

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba : May I know from the Minister who will be held responsible for damaged goods caused by unnecessary delay to these goods trains. Is it the Railway Corporation or the owner ?

Hon. M. Amechi : I think it all depends entirely on the circumstances of each particular case, and, in any case, the Railway Corporation Act clearly sets down who will be responsible under any particular circumstance.

Aerodrome for Owerri

O.34. Senator J. K. Nzerem asked the Minister of Transport, if he is aware that the Shell BP which formerly had its headquarters at Owerri, built an airfield there for helicopters and other light aircraft, and whether he will consider the advisability of making this field the nucleus for an aerodrome to serve this part of the country.

Hon. M. Amechi : I am aware that Shell BP have constructed an airstrip at Owerri. Consideration is being given to the acquisition of certain airstrips formerly used by Shell BP, of which Owerri is one.

EDUCATION

Teachers' Retiring Benefits

O.35. Senator J. K. Nzerem asked the Minister of Education, if he will include teachers registered in Part C/S of the Teachers' Register among those entitled to superannuation or retiring benefits.

The Minister of Education : No, Sir. I am unable to include teachers registered in Part C/S among those entitled to retiring benefits because this class of teachers are not qualified under the existing Regulation.

Senator Nzerem : What encouragement will the Minister give to them? Shall we say that because they have not become certificated teachers, they will therefore get nothing when their counterparts in the Government service get *ex-gratia* gratuity on retirement ?

The Minister of Education : They are greatly encouraged. They benefit from seminars and if they do well, at the end of fifteen years, they will be awarded Grade III certificate which will entitle them to whatever benefits their counterparts get.

Honorary Teachers Certificates

O.40 Senator J. K. Nzerem asked the Minister of Education, how many teachers employed by the Federal Government, voluntary agencies and local government bodies were awarded the honorary Grade Two (High Elementary) Teachers' Certificate during the years 1961 and 1962, and if he will state the policy governing the award of these certificates.

The Minister of Education : In 1961, the following awards were made—

Honorary Grade II— 9 Certificates

Honorary Grade III—12 Certificates.

In 1962, 12 were recommended for the award of honorary Grade II certificates and 15 for the honorary Grade III but no award has yet been made.

The conditions governing the awards are as follows—

10 years teaching service for Grade II and 15 years for Grade III. Satisfactory attendance at in-service training courses. Outstanding ability in class work including good knowledge of subject matter being taught with good blackboard work and use of teaching aid. In general, an enlightened approach to teaching.

Senator Nzerem : Will the Minister tell the Senate why no awards have been made for 1962 ?

The Minister of Education : Applications are being processed and if after screening, the Education Authority is satisfied that the

[MINISTER OF EDUCATION]

applicant should be given an award, he or she will have it.

A Senator : How soon will that be ?

The Minister of Education : As soon as possible.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

O.37. Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will enumerate, country by country, the total tonnage and value of Nigeria's primary products bought by those countries annually.

The Minister of Health : The answer to this Question is rather long and involves a lot of figures. With your permission, the Answer will be circulated in the Official Report.

The Answer is as follows :—

COCOA—1960		
Countries	Tonnage	Value £
United Kingdom ..	41,397	9,564,372
Canada	4,903	1,122,771
France	1,400	319,816
Netherlands ..	30,866	7,096,446
Western Germany ..	16,400	3,780,854
Italy and Trieste ..	10,060	2,329,686
United States of America	34,450	7,770,858
Other countries ..	14,449	3,072,007
Total	153,925	£35,056,810

GROUNDNUTS—1960		
Countries	Tonnage	Value £
United Kingdom ..	94,502	5,915,995
France	71,606	5,259,910
Belgium and Luxem- bourg	31,351	2,037,331
Netherlands ..	37,526	2,356,719
Portugal	17,953	1,245,420
Norway	6,500	434,525
Italy and Trieste ..	38,754	2,544,042
Spain	—	—
Other countries ..	33,721	2,161,568
Total	331,913	£21,955,510

PALM KERNELS—1960		
Countries	Tonnage	Value £
United Kingdom ..	235,206	14,188,809
Belgium and Luxem- bourg	10,996	693,706
Netherlands ..	100,448	5,904,956
Norway	—	—
Denmark	13,534	841,168
Western Germany ..	36,254	2,174,296
Other countries ..	21,602	1,294,482
Total	418,040	£25,097,417

BENNISEED—1960		
Countries	Tonnage	Value £
United Kingdom ..	378	24,603
Belgium and Luxem- bourg	—	—
Netherlands ..	300	20,315
Denmark	1,111	76,423
Italy and Trieste ..	4,995	335,007
Other countries ..	20,496	1,376,586
Total	27,280	£1,832,934

NATURAL RUBBER (OF ALL GRADES)—1960		
Countries	Tonnage	Value £
United Kingdom ..	13,793	3,399,504
Netherlands ..	295	91,797
Western Germany ..	8,162	2,041,576
Czechoslovakia ..	2,137	628,894
United States of America	1,451	350,546
Belgium and Luxem- bourg	288	71,982
Other countries ..	36,653	6,806,345
Total	32,638	£8,206,542

TIMBER (LOGS)—1960		
Countries	Cubic ft.	Value £
United Kingdom ..	6,684,897	1,687,087
Netherlands ..	4,797,903	1,274,038
Denmark	560,626	176,144
Switzerland	4,968	1,544
Western Germany ..	6,889,750	1,820,139
Italy Trieste	2,254,098	715,900
United States of America	61,102	16,236
Israel	80,388	19,903
Other countries ..	686,964	206,588
Total	22,020,696	£5,917,579

TIMBER (SAWN)—1960		
Countries	Cubic ft.	Value £
United Kingdom ..	1,529,860	795,893
Union of South Africa	29,085	19,406
Niger Colony	13,124	7,611
Netherlands	89,483	47,769
Western Germany ..	74,823	45,169
Italy and Trieste ..	12,086	3,867
Other countries ..	370,814	198,444
Total	2,119,275	£1,118,159

HIDES (OF CATTLE, BUFFALO, HORSES, ETC.)		
Countries	Cwt.	Value £
United Kingdom ..	14,593	214,107
France	9,150	123,629
Belgium and Luxem- bourg	439	6,027
Netherlands ..	25,243	320,611
Italy and Trieste ..	48,760	648,746
Greece	1,855	28,093
Other countries ..	21,339	285,130
Total	121,379	£1,626,343

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SKINS (GOAT SKINS, KID SKINS)—1960

Countries	Cwt	Value £
United Kingdom ..	18,195	613,934
Netherlands	1,768	77,577
Western Germany ..	493	16,241
United States of America	29,679	1,239,976
Other Countries ..	1,077	34,308
Total	51,212	1,982,036

COCOA—1961

United Kingdom ..	49,054	8,798,455
Canada	1,984	369,362
France	2,300	378,081
Netherlands	33,030	5,974,938
Western Germany ..	19,530	3,529,133
Italy and Trieste ..	6,434	1,208,463
United States of America	67,151	12,651,558
Other Countries ..	4,428	836,466
Total	183,911	33,746,456

PALM KERNELS

United Kingdom ..	223,729	10,861,431
Belgium Lux. ..	6,500	309,020
Netherlands	128,014	6,153,597
Denmark	5,000	243,367
Western Germany ..	34,258	1,676,166
Italy and Trieste ..	3,875	191,206
Others	9,252	453,912
Total	410,628	19,888,699

GROUNDNUTS

United Kingdom ..	119,147	7,525,188
France	110,825	7,898,067
Belgium Lux. ..	34,331	2,266,615
Netherlands	54,994	3,494,688
Portugal	1,500	97,558
Norway	2,000	126,597
Western Germany ..	50,324	3,073,324
Italy and Trieste ..	70,030	4,391,347
Others	50,709	3,359,314
Total	493,860	32,232,698

HIDES (CATTLE, BUFFALO, HORSES, etc.)—1961

Countries	Quantity (Cwt.)	Value £
United Kingdom ..	11,724	144,368
France	15,579	199,845
Belgium Luxembourg ..	320	4,189
Netherlands	23,330	288,342
Italy and Trieste ..	50,201	622,926
Greece	3,401	49,864
Other Countries ..	23,655	295,575
Total	128,210	£1,605,109

SKINS (GOATSKINS AND KID SKINS UNDRESSED)—1961

Countries	Quantity (Cwt.)	Value £
United Kingdom ..	17,603	499,933
Netherlands	818	26,080
Western Germany ..	3,484	109,109
United States of America	25,387	785,338
Other Countries ..	3,954	103,959
Total	51,246	1,524,419

BENNESEED—1961

Countries	Tonnage	Value £
United Kingdom ..	435	28,198
Netherlands	500	41,839
Denmark	800	55,420
Italy and Trieste ..	7,189	504,168
Japan	4,799	317,005
Other Countries ..	6,951	514,288
Total	20,674	1,460,918

NATURAL RUBBER (OF ALL GRADES)—1961

Countries	Quantity (Cwt)	Value £
United Kingdom ..	12,686	2,672,938
Netherlands	81	19,785
Western Germany ..	6,442	1,381,750
Czechoslovakia ..	2,732	607,061
Belgium and Luxemburg ..	87	16,212
United States of America	1,332	240,950
Other Countries ..	7,464	1,455,267
Total	30,844	6,393,963

TIMBER LOGS—1961 (ALL SPECIES)

Countries	Cu. ft	Value £
United Kingdom ..	5,525,371	1,407,295
Netherlands	4,348,829	1,192,949
Denmark	424,024	138,590
Switzerland	6,075	1,819
Western Germany ..	5,837,159	1,570,983
Italy and Trieste ..	2,963,664	872,609
U.S.A.	32,813	8,488
Israel	103,876	22,145
Other Countries ..	1,062,303	264,033
Total	20,304,114	5,478,911

TIMBER (SAWN) (OF ALL SPECIES)—1961

Countries	Cu. ft.	Value £
United Kingdom ..	1,533,672	
Republic of Togo ..	127,857	
Netherlands	76,754	
Western Germany ..	60,505	
Italy and Trieste ..	16,165	
U.S.A.	259,466	
Other Countries ..	125,501	
Total	2,199,920	£1,243,011

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[MINISTER OF HEALTH]

1961—PALM OIL (ALL GRADES)

Countries	Tons	Value £
United Kingdom	121,500	8,958,433
Canada	1,180	92,527
Denmark	5,175	390,558
Sweden	570	43,446
Germany	4,495	343,938
Holland	15,740	1,111,012
Italy	30	2,266
Belgium	5,800	403,197
U.S.A.	600	44,370
Poland	700	54,655
Ivory Coast	2,000	148,000
India	8,489	519,881
Congo (Leo.)	765	48,195
Cameroon	290	16,907
Australia	50	4,027
Sierra Leone	179	15,901

COCOA—JANUARY TO OCTOBER 1962

Countries	Tonnage	Value £
Netherlands	261,262	4,505,052
Federal Republic of Germany	158,665	2,813,717
France	39,000	613,295
Italy	73,500	1,343,468
United Kingdom	425,300	7,251,722
Norway	2,000	41,248
Sweden	3,000	50,124
Denmark	2,900	49,203
Ireland	2,100	35,330
Yugoslavia	4,000	73,260
Canada	60,363	1,099,869
United States of America	508,096	10,230,860
Japan	25,000	415,972
Australia	2,000	39,263
Total	1,647,186	£28,562,383

GROUNDNUTS—JANUARY 1962 TO OCTOBER 1962

Countries	Tonnage	Value £
Japan	2	15
Hong Kong	2,001	13,499
Morocco	198,931	1,255,387
Dahomey	2,004	8,328
Niger	2,100	8,374
Ghana	300	2,033
Togo	1,500	9,240
Netherlands	471,344	2,913,543
Benelux	280,316	1,730,006
Federal Republic of Germany	616,170	3,759,450
France	400,331	2,466,618
Italy	589,584	3,512,439
United Kingdom	1,265,942	7,864,583
Norway	40,000	244,550
Denmark	24,999	152,831
Switzerland	144,359	900,119
Ireland	5,001	32,574
Spain	160,005	975,075
Poland	80,000	509,715

Countries	Tonnage	Value £
Finland	10,000	66,633
Canada	250	1,625
Venezuela	25,000	170,711
Lebanon	28,500	184,487
Iraq	71,504	467,845
Total	4,423,143	£27,249,680

PALM KERNELS—January 1962 to October 1962

Countries	Tonnage	Value £
Netherlands	1,069,741	4,912,044
Benelux	104,999	487,380
Federal Republic of Ger- many	355,158	1,627,181
France	10,000	62,315
Italy	10,000	45,929
United Kingdom	1,555,393	7,115,407
Denmark	44,999	208,010
Switzerland	10,000	44,773
Ireland	8,002	36,681
Poland	69,692	319,888
Total	3,237,984	£14,659,608

BENNESEED—January to October 1962

Countries	Tonnage	Value £
France	6,652	44,985
Italy	58,528	432,875
United Kingdom	6,991	54,107
Denmark	11,090	93,423
Venezuela	44,600	347,370
Japan	12,000	82,234
Total	139,861	£1,054,994

HIDES (OF CATTLE, BUFFALO, ETC.)
January to October 1962

Countries	Cwt.	Value £
Egypt	6,512	15,903
Ghana	485	721
Netherlands	162,516	216,879
Benelux	5,083	5,379
Federal Republic of Ger- many	2,625	4,008
France	176,098	251,865
Italy	291,207	362,304
United Kingdom	76,920	106,727
Switzerland	6,973	8,455
Portugal	2,593	2,510
Spain	156,265	197,624
Greece	15,040	21,437
Iraq	329	621
India	1,862	2,567
Japan	7,669	9,355
Total	912,177	£1,196,355

SKINS (GOAT AND KID SKINS)

January to October 1962

Countries	Cwt.	Value £
Netherlands	14,659	46,881
Federal Republic of Germany	17,250	53,586
France	23,141	76,698
Italy	68,958	168,915
United Kingdom	133,280	384,200
Sweden	811	2,214
Ireland	1,038	3,066
Spain	8,344	21,727
Greece	1,116	2,934
United States	181,979	565,734
Japan	217	546
Australia	8,842	30,755
Total	459,635	1,357,276

NATURAL RUBBER (ALL GRADES)

January to October 1962

Countries	Tonnage	Value £
Equatorial Customs Union	1,410	18,833
Netherlands	2,590	51,957
Benelux	1,400	24,428
Federal Republic of Germany	52,053	1,052,173
France	1,958	43,984
United Kingdom	94,858	2,018,619
Norway	959	21,731
Sweden	4,637	95,644
Denmark	251	5,303
Czechoslovakia	18,730	379,648
Canada	350	6,220
United States	46,328	819,668
Morocco	800	13,922
Italy	250	4,398
Spain	250	4,007
Poland	250	5,796
Total	227,074	£4,566,331

NOTICE OF MOTION

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Health (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi): I beg to move, That, Tomorrow, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 17 (b), Government Business shall have precedence of the business of Unofficial Senators.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachuku): I beg to second.

Senator A. E. Ukattah: By this Motion the Government is trying to put off the Motions Senators have filed. Senators have all the time been blamed for not filing Motions, and now that they have filed them Government is

coming in. Government wants their Motions to come first on the Order Paper, and at 6 o'clock Senators' Motions may be called up when Senators are already tired.

I know very well that one of my Motions has been billed for tomorrow. If this Motion is passed and the provisions of the Standing Order are altered I would beg that my own Motion be suspended until the next Sitting. Further, one of my Motions is a very important Motion, and I would like it to be taken when Senators cool down and are prepared to take it earnestly.

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku: It is for this House to decide or to indicate whether it is their intention that Government Business shall take precedence. It is not the place of Senators to appeal for their own particular Motions to be placed on the Order Paper. It is the principle which is involved. For a long time the number of Motions coming before this honourable Senate have been very few. But now movements and circumstances around the country have imposed upon Senators a greater awareness, and there are certain matters on which Senators would like to pronounce their minds. Accordingly necessary Motions have been filed. It is not the intention of this House that when we come tomorrow Government Business shall take precedence.

Tuesday is the only day Senators have in the week, and, I think, the general intention is to rush through Government Business, and, perhaps, towards the end of the week the Senate is to adjourn again until another Session and all Motions will lapse. If the Business of Government will stand suspended until another Session, let it stand suspended. I appeal that we should be given this Tuesday to debate all our Motions and take decisions on them.

There is, indeed, a very important Motion coming before this House on Tuesday accepting the dignity and the status of this honourable Senate, but if we are not able to debate it how can we convey our unanimous or majority decision to the Government? So, in my opinion, I do not think Senators will condescend to this Motion which seeks that tomorrow when we come here our own Motions should stand suspended. Government Business should stand suspended.

[SENATOR CHIEF FAGBENRO-BEYIOKU]

All these Government Bills are not priority Bills at all, and if Government does not want to suspend them until July or August let them bring them, if they are so anxious, after our Motions, and then the Senate can continue till next week—but, of course, they have got to think of the convenience of Senators.

So, I personally feel, this House will disagree that when we come here tomorrow our Motions which are coming up for the first time (and we are really facing serious Motions numbering twelve or fourteen) should be preceded by Government Business, because if this happens Government Business will take the whole morning and at six o'clock the House will adjourn for the day.

We are not in agreement, please.

The Minister of Health : Senators are not being fair this morning, because when I made a brief Business statement on Saturday I indicated that the House might continue to sit until Thursday. Senators expressed the wish that they would like to go back because of the Ramadan Festival, and I did suggest that in that case the Senate might give Government Business priority on Private Members' Day, and it was the general wish of the House that that should be the case. Then this Motion was filed, and I do not think it is necessary for Senators now to back out of an agreement which we all reached on Saturday.

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale, Madawakin Bida : I think the hon. Minister is right to bring this Motion to give Government Business precedence over the Private Members Motions. The decision had been taken since Saturday, and he is right to bring this Motion this morning, as this is the decision of the majority of the Senators here.

So, I support the Motion.

Senator H. O. Abaagu : Of course, the Minister is right, but there was no general agreement last Saturday. It was the Moslem Senators who lobbied the Minister about their anxiety to go home for the Ramadan Festival.

I think the compromise in this case will be for the Moslem Senators to be relieved for the Festival provided when they are relieved we shall still form a quorum. It is very important that Private Members' Motions should come up tomorrow.

Senator Chief P. C. Ndu : I think the Minister of Health is quite correct, because on Saturday he made it perfectly clear that if really we were going to adjourn before 3rd or 4th, Government Business would take priority over Private Members' Motions on Tuesday, and we all agreed on it. There is no need now backing out.

Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu : I do not know how urgent this Government Motion which is coming up tomorrow is. If the urgency is not very great, and if it will not be to the detriment of the whole Federation, I see no earthly reason why it should not be suspended.

According to Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku, tomorrow is the only day for Senators to air their views and express their minds. If the Bills that the Government is trying to put up for tomorrow, are not of such importance to the nation, I think they should be withdrawn to give way for Senator's Motions. Personally, I do not think there is any urgency in them, though I do not know what the Bills are about, but I feel there can be no urgency in them, and I can see no earthly reason why they should not be suspended to give the Senators the chance of bringing out their Motions tomorrow. That is my own view about it.

Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu : I pray to this hon. House to be more honest and fair to the Government. As far as this matter is concerned the hon. Minister is very right. What he said was what we all agreed upon. The question of Government Business taking precedence over the business of Senators is quite in order according to the business of the day which was read on Saturday. We agreed then that Government Business should take precedence, so we should not fight where there is no battle.

Indeed, we have rightly showed our anger this morning when we were slighted, and we have laid sufficient emphasis on that. Therefore, I do not find anybody at all to blame in this matter. Whatever the Minister expressed here was the view that we all expressed and agreed upon.

I do not see anything bad in this Motion. Since it is already on the Order Paper it must be moved and debated. Actually, we have not

come for personal Motions now, we came for the Budget Session of the Federation which is more important. If we are delaying that one—

The President : On that point the Senator is wrong. Senators are entitled to Tuesday, but I am not saying that what the Minister said is not right. It is not right for the Senator to say that he has come for the Budget and not for personal Motions.

Senator Chief Acholonu : Mr President, I was prompted to get up because several Senators were saying that what the Minister said was not what we agreed to.

Senator A. E. Ukattah : Point of order. Senator Chief Acholonu should realise that not all of us agreed to that. I kicked against it. It might be correct to say some of us, but not all of us.

The Minister of Health (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi) : If I may butt in again, perhaps to tell the House so that we could make progress. We are now arguing about whether we should take Government Business, and we have spent fifteen minutes discussing this very simple Motion.

Last Saturday, the Official Report did say, if I may have your permission, Mr President, to quote :—

“Unfortunately I cannot give Senators the precise business for next week as Senator Alhaji Garba had requested because we have not finished the Bills listed on the Order Paper. We will certainly continue with them on Monday. At the end of that we hope to take the Appropriation Bill. Tuesday is normally Private Member’s Day. Unless Senators wish to forego their right to debate their own Motions, then we shall take Government business on that day. But if they wish to use the Private Member’s Day to debate their Motions, then we shall have to sit on Wednesday. If we do not finish our business on Wednesday then we shall continue on Thursday.”

I wish to assure Senators that the Government has no desire to rush the Business of this House. If Senators want to sit for another two weeks, we are here and we are living in Lagos, we can wait and Senators can have their full Private Members’ Day. It was as a result of the wish expressed on the Floor of

this House that I brought this Motion to accommodate the Senators. I therefore find it very difficult to know what Senators want. Sometimes they say they want to go home, at other times they say they want to sit here and debate the Motion. They said they wanted to go home for the *Sallah* and we said all right, that we would take Government Business. As soon as we finish Government Business, it does not mean that Senators will not be able to debate Private Members’ Motion. They will have to debate it. But as soon as we finish Government Business, then we shall take Private Members’ Motion. If we do not want to debate Government Business on Tuesday, it means that we shall have to stay to do it on Wednesday or Thursday for that matter. But it would be in deference to the wishes of this House, and I would respectfully ask Mr President that you should put the Question.

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

Main Question, put and agreed to.

Resolved, That, Tomorrow, notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 17 (b), Government Business shall have precedence of the business of Unofficial Senators.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MEDICAL AND DENTAL PRACTITIONERS BILL :
ADJOURNED DEBATE ON SECOND READING
(27TH APRIL)

Senator A. E. Ukattah : As I was saying last Saturday before the moment of interruption, the provision of the Bill for the setting up of disciplinary tribunal and investigating panel is welcome and necessary. Much depends on these two bodies for the realisation of the aims of this Bill. I have only to add that the people to be appointed into these bodies should be men of good character, people whose character is unquestionable, people who will look into cases presented to them with an impartial eye, people who will make their recommendation, giving final finding without factional or tribal consideration.

The next point that I would speak on is about the composition of the Medical Council. The number will be twenty-five members, and six of them are to represent the Nigerian Medical Association. This is indeed com-

[SENATOR UKATTAH]

mendable, particularly when you think of the method of selection. The Minister has shown much confidence in the Association that he has allowed it to select from among its own members six men. It would be very wrong for the Minister to appoint the people himself and he has allowed the Medical Association to select these six people. That shows confidence:

In conclusion, I would say that this Bill has everything to commend itself for the support of Senators. It is designed to enhance the dignity and proficiency of Medical and Dental professions and to ensure a high standard for medical education in this country. To have the best is what our Government is aiming at, and this Bill confirms that.

I beg to support.

Senator Chief Ezeogo Ugwuocha : This is a welcome Bill. What this Bill seeks for—

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku : On a point of order, I do not know which one is not welcome.

Senator Ugwuocha : What this Bill seeks to do is to establish a Nigerian Medical Council as well as disciplinary action. I would like to air my views on these points. Nowadays, there are some doctors who employ middlemen. The middlemen go about in the towns to get patients for them. They meet them and tell them that going to the General Hospital or Government Hospital is of no use and is a waste of time. They tell them to go to the private medical practitioners. That is the order of the day.

I would like the Minister of Health under the provision for disciplinary action, to take into consideration this point that I have made this morning.

Another point is that, while I was at Aba during the time of Dr Pearse, some doctors had their private consulting rooms. They asked the patients to come one by one—

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku : On a point of order, I do not think it is quite in order to mention officials during debate. The name of Dr Pearse should not come in at all. The Standing Order is against it.

The President : He said during the time of so and so. You should have waited for him to develop his argument.

Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku : I want to save him from going into trouble.

The President : He may end by saying that private medical practitioners were doing so and so and that Dr Pearse stepped in and stopped it. Let him finish.

Senator Ugwuocha : I am wondering if I can give an example. When Dr Pearse was at Aba, he always remained in his private room and when he was not satisfied he would come out to the patient's waiting room. He would like to know from whom patients—

The President : I think the point of order is right now. I would like to inform you that Dr Pearse is dead now. It is not fair talking about Dr Pearse now.

Senator Chief Ezeogo Ugwuocha : I withdraw making mention of Dr Pearse. What I know to-day is that some of our doctors arrange with chemists before they go to the hospital. When they get to the office they recommend to patients the medicine which could only be obtained in the shop of a chemist with whom they had already made arrangements. I therefore request the Minister of Health to take this into consideration when considering discipline.

The Minister of Health (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi) : I wish to thank Senators who have contributed to this debate on the Second Reading of this Bill. Every one has spoken very much in favour of the Bill and has in fact commended it.

There is one very important point which I would like to refer to very briefly, and that is the point raised by Senator Nzerem. The Senator said that many of our students cannot gain admission into the University of Ibadan and that those who were rejected in Ibadan found their way into universities abroad—Britain, America, Ireland and many other parts of the world. The reasons for these are that the accommodation for students in Ibadan is limited to about fifty students and the facilities for training are also limited. We are trying to expand it so that they can take about a hundred students. Actually, the students who wish to be admitted into the university for training as doctors are very many; sometimes they are about two to three hundred students. In this respect, the University authorities have to

select the best students through competitive examination. The successful ones are admitted and those who fail go abroad. It does not mean that the standard is made so high with a view to scaring away Nigerian students.

At the moment, we have established a Medical School in Lagos which we hope will bring the admission of students up to two hundred a year within the next five to ten years. The facilities at Ibadan will also be increased, and we hope that before very long it will be possible for the University of Ibadan to take up to a hundred students, and of course, the Federal Government will give every encouragement to other universities which are established in the country, so that we can produce more doctors. The ratio of doctors to the population stands at the moment at one doctor to 40,000 people in this country. This is very poor, and it shows that we are very short of doctors.

About the question of discipline, measures against doctors are very well taken care of in the Bill, and the practice of some doctors making use of chemists to achieve their selfish goals, as Senator Ugwuocha referred to, will be stopped. Well, it is a recognised cannon of medical ethics that any doctor who associates himself with an unqualified person will be severely dealt with. In fact, any doctor who is found guilty of such an offence is liable to have his name struck off the Medical Register. The procedure as to disciplinary actions is very well laid down to protect the members of the public and, at the same time, to give protection to the members of the medical profession who are also being disciplined so that injustice is not done.

In fact, the ethics of the medical profession are so high that what an average citizen can do and get away with, the doctor cannot do it and get away with it. There are so many things which are classified under the heading of unprofessional conduct. Any doctor found guilty of unprofessional conduct will be severely dealt with by his own profession. That is why there is a disciplinary committee and a tribunal which will investigate these things and bring them before the disciplinary committee.

With regard to the question of standard, I wish to assure Senators that by introducing this Bill, it is not intended to lower the standard of doctors who enter our register. It is to

enable us widen the scope, because we do know that there are other Medical Schools outside the Commonwealth whose standards are just as high and, in some cases, higher than some of our people whom we have hitherto admitted into our register. There is no reason why our boys should not qualify in this Medical School which has gained international recognition and reputation. Those people who also qualify in other universities—say in England, Ireland, Germany, Italy and many other places, should be made use of in this country and should not be subjected to any disability whatsoever. That is exactly the anomaly which this Bill seeks to rectify.

With these few remarks, I commend the Bill to the Senate.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time; immediately considered in Committee; reported, without Amendment; read the Third time and passed.

JUDICIAL, ETC., OFFICES AND APPEALS BY PROSECUTORS BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation (Hon. R. A. Njoku): I beg to move—

That a Bill to provide for appointments to certain court offices to be made by the Judicial Service Commission of the Federation; to make further provision as to the appointments of certain judges, law officers and magistrates; to make further provision with respect to appeals in criminal proceedings brought otherwise than by the accused persons; and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid, be read a Second time.

The contents of this Bill are fairly straightforward, but I will run quickly through the clauses. The first clause deals with the appointment of registrars and certain other officers of the court by the Judicial Service Commission. Before this time, such appointments were made by the Public Service Commission. Representations have been made to the Attorney-General by the Federal Supreme Court and the High Court of Lagos that it is essential that all the officers of the rank of registrars who were working in the courts should be appointed by the Judicial Service Commission. Clause 1 of this Bill is intended to make this provision.

[MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND AVIATION]

Clause 2—new rank of Magistrates should be designated Senior magistrates and provide a new item of jurisdiction for these magistrates. As Senators have already known, there are Magistrates, Grade One and there are Chief Magistrates, but there is nothing intermediate in the Federal Territory.

Chief Magistrates have jurisdiction over matters of the value of up to £500 and they can impose penalties of imprisonment of anything up to 5 years, whereas Magistrates Grade I have jurisdiction in cases dealing with matters of the value of £200 and can impose penalties of imprisonment of a maximum of two years. Then it is considered necessary to have an intermediate grade between the Magistrate, Grade I and the Chief Magistrate, and that is why this new grade is being created. The new grade of Senior Magistrate will have jurisdiction to impose penalties of up to 3 years' imprisonment and fines of up to £300. The need to fill this gap has long been felt, and it is now provided in this Bill that this gap should be filled.

The Bill also makes transitional provision to enable the Northern Region and any other of our Regions that are faced with certain problems of staffing of the court to appoint judges of the court or other law officers who, perhaps, otherwise would not be qualified under the Legal Practitioners Act of 1962.

This provision in this Bill was made at the instance of the Regional Government so as to allow the Solicitor-General of the North to relieve the Attorney-General when he is on leave, and it is considered that in any case like that, this should be allowed to happen. If it is intended, however, to appoint a judge who is not a Nigerian in that Region to-day, the Legal Education Act of 1962 would make it impossible. This is merely a temporary provision which will, I think, not go beyond the next two or three years when there will be sufficient lawyers to man the various courts in all the Regions.

As I said, this Bill is straightforward, and I do not think it needs much comment. I would like to say that if there is any other point that Senators may like to raise, I will try to answer them.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Health (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi) : I beg to second.

Order for Second Reading read.

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku : The Bill, in the general context, is a very good one, and I do not think I stand to quarrel with it.

It was contained in the Speech from the Throne delivered by His Excellency the Governor-General, that the post of Senior Magistrate would be created. Personally, at that time, I did not feel very happy with the creation of such a post, but I reserved my observation until to-day. Not that I do not want Magistrates to get promoted (I must have to clear that) but I feel, as somebody who deals with human problems, both at work and in industry, that the creation of such a post will lead to a sort of cheating. I believe that in this country we have inherited a lot of irregularities and anomalies from the British masters. A lot of these intermediate grades were created so as to keep people back. "You are entitled to do this work and you are entitled to so much money", but they do not want you to get it at the same time. You must have to be going step by step, promotion by promotion, so that eventually you may not even get what you are entitled to.

I feel that all we need in this country are Magistrates, Chief Magistrates. There are some people who are not qualified legal practitioners and who are appointed magistrates because they are good. What is going to happen now that people are being promoted from Magistrate Grade One to Chief Magistrate is that they cannot get the opportunity of such promotion again. They have to go to Senior Magistrate and perhaps finish their career at that, whereas in the normal course of events, they should have been promoted to the grade of Chief Magistrate. I feel this is one of the things that we must have to get done with in this country. You will find it all over the civil service—Executive Officer Grade II, Executive Officers, Grade I, Higher Executive Officer, Senior Executive Officer, and all the rest of it. By and large, if you compare the duties of these people, you will find that the duties are almost identical, but just to keep people back.

If the hon. Minister will like to give consideration to this thing, I will feel very very happy. It may not be possible to expect an amendment at this instance, but, by and large, I would like us to get away from that state of affairs which we have inherited. We are no more a colonial people, and what we do now must be for the general progress of our members. For that matter, I am not happy at the creation of the grade of Senior Magistrate which is to keep people at a stop gap in between. If they want to create more posts, create more posts of Chief Magistrate, and people who are now to be made Senior Magistrates should work as Chief Magistrate.

That is my opinion.

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale (Madawakin Bida): I rise to support the Bill. I think it is a timely and orderly one.

One thing that I want to remind the hon. Minister and Solicitor-General of is that it is now time that consideration should be given to the creation of the post of an Alkali to advise these magistrates in all civil cases in connection with Moslem law. At the moment, I do not think that courts are functioning well in Lagos. Civil cases differ according to differences in religion and so on. People talk about it and murmur about it, that it will be a good thing for an Alkali to be attached to these Magistrate Courts to advise the courts.

A Senator : In Lagos ?

Alhaji Bale : In Lagos here. I am talking about Lagos and Lagos only. If this consideration is given to this point, I will appreciate it; and I think that others will also appreciate it.

I beg to support.

Senator Chief J. S. Olayeye : I have a different view about the appointment of Magistrate, Senior Magistrate, Chief Magistrate and Judges. My idea is that an experienced lawyer who discharges his duties as a lawyer in the court of equity and has won several cases, should be given appointment under the Judicial Department direct without making promotion from ordinary Magistrate or Magistrate, Grade I or Senior Magistrate or a Judge.

For instance, at the moment, it occurs to me that the Judicial Department is not independent. It appears to be connected with the

Executive. It does not appear to me that the people in the Judiciary are allowed to discharge their duties to the public successfully and satisfactorily, because the people in the Judiciary fear that if they do not discharge their duties in the manner wanted by the Executive, perhaps they would not be promoted.

A European friend of mine was discussing with me one day and he made me to understand that in England, only lawyers of long experience, who have practised for about forty years are appointed as Magistrates, Chief Magistrates, Senior Magistrates or Judges. But here, we appoint some inexperienced people who return home from abroad immediately after qualifying. Why can we not appoint lawyers who have had many years' experience and have practised successfully as judges without going through all the stages of Magistrate, Senior Magistrate, Chief Magistrate and so on ? If that is done, I think there will be no difficulty because if any man is appointed a Magistrate, he will like to do his work in a way that the Executive will appreciate and which will enhance the prospects of his promotion.

If a man is appointed a magistrate because of his experience, let him remain a Magistrate instead of giving him promotion, because if he knows he may be promoted if he works to please the Executive, he will do his work with fear. My idea therefore is that we should appoint a man direct to the post of Magistrate or Judge instead of promoting A and leaving B because A has discharged his duties in a way that pleased the Executive. The question of fear is involved. Members of the public feel that when a Magistrate is appointed he will not be able to discharge his duties properly since the Judiciary is not independent. But if it happens that the Judiciary is independent and has nothing to do with the Executive, that will be very good because the question of promotion will be better than at the moment, when the Judiciary is in conflict with the Executive. So, in my opinion, I think a Magistrate should remain a Magistrate and a Judge should remain a Judge. A lawyer should be given direct appointment according to his qualification to the post of either a Magistrate or a Judge.

With these few remarks, Sir, I beg to support this Bill.

Senator J. K. Nzerem : I do not see anything particularly wrong with creating a cadre for Senior Magistrates immediately below the grade of Chief Magistrate. I think it will act as an incentive to hard work. Magistrates knowing that after being in Grade I for some time, there will be prospect for promotion to the Grade of Senior Magistrate will be spurred to greater efforts. If one is stagnant one tends to be discouraged. So, I think it is a very good thing for which we should praise the Federal Government. They are trying to recognise the ability of the Magistrates who are doing their work well.

I do not think we should quarrel with this Bill. If it were possible to increase the establishment of Chief Magistrates, then one might say what Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku said would be applicable, but when the Government is not prepared to create so many posts of Chief Magistrates, it is better for those who are Magistrates Grade I to proceed to the intermediate grades rather than stagnate for so many years.

I do not know if I got right what the Minister said in introducing this Bill about unqualified people being appointed in the North. I do not know if he means that people who are not qualified as Magistrates should be appointed to the Judiciary. I would not agree with that. I think we have many lawyers in this country, and if there are unqualified people in the North, I do not see why we should not take qualified lawyers in the South until they are able to produce their own lawyers. We should appeal to our brothers in the North to reconsider their attitude in that respect at least.

I think this is a very good Bill and I support it.

Senator E. A. Lagunju : This is really a welcome Bill, and, personally, I have no quarrel with it. As somebody mentioned, we have seen cases of people appointed Judges direct. I remember Senator Shomolu, who was here some time ago and is now a Judge in the Western Region. Also Dr. Udo Udoma too has been appointed a Judge. So, there is nothing standing in the way of highly qualified and competent lawyers becoming judges, or magistrates or whatever the grades may be. As Senator Nzerem pointed out, I think this is a way out ; instead of somebody stagnating at

a post, he goes up to Senior Magistrate which of course, brings some greater remuneration to him, and eventually he rises to the post of Chief Magistrate, when this becomes vacant. I think this is really a welcome Bill.

We are not going to waste time on it. We congratulate the Minister for this progressive piece of legislation.

Senator H. O. Abaagu : I stand to associate myself with the contributions made by my Friend, Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku. In fact, I do not see why there should be any difference between Senior Magistrates and Chief Magistrates. Instead of creating this post of Senior Magistrates I should think that it would be better to promote the qualified men straight to the post of Chief Magistrates. The present proposal does not make for economy at all. This is just like what exists in the Civil Service. In the Civil Service the expatriates created series of posts so that none of our men would climb near them. We have from the bottom of the ladder to the top such posts as Assistant Secretary, Principal Assistant Secretary, Senior Assistant Secretary, Under Secretary and so on. I do not think that these make for economy.

Another point I want to make is on the question of appointing people who are not lawyers as Magistrates. When these people come to the court they have lawyers to argue cases before them. Naturally they will find it difficult to face the lawyers when a point of law arises. I would, therefore, suggest that the post of Magistrates be reserved exclusively to lawyers. We would have no quarrel if the people who are experienced in this field although they may not be lawyers are appointed as Customary Court Judges. These people should not be appointed as Magistrates. And I think it is time we looked into this thing.

Senator T. Olamijulo : I rise to support the Bill and to support what others have been saying. It is time we cut off the colonial ideas that have tied us down. I remember quite vividly the time when a certain office had to be provided with an electric plant. In order to do this reference had to be made to several persons. Many offices had to be contacted before this plant could be installed. Then a man from America jumped up and said that what the British people were doing was very bad. He said that if it were in America once

a person in charge made a request for something like the installation of electric plant it would be attended to without waste of time. But by the British way of doing things one has to go to one man, then to another and so on. The same thing is going on to-day in this country.

I would have thought that once a person is capable of doing a thing he should not be debarred from doing it. If a person is qualified for promotion he should be promoted immediately. We have been delaying promotions in the past and I think that the time has come when if a man is capable of doing a job he should not be debarred from carrying on. He should be promoted from time to time until he reaches the highest grade in the establishment. Improvement has to be made.

We should all thank the Government for this measure. But we hope that this measure will be changed so that we do not have promotions upon promotions as we have them at present. This is what I have to say.

The Minister of Transport : I want to thank Senators who have contributed to this debate. I have to answer briefly some of the controversial points raised.

As Senator Nzerem has said, this new cadre of Senior Magistrates as a matter of fact is being created to make the work of Magistrates a little more attractive. Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku was saying that this post was not necessary; that a man should be promoted straight as a Chief Magistrate. He should realise that like any top post in any department, there can only be one Chief Magistrate in Lagos. One man only can be promoted at a time. But if we have posts of Senior Magistrates we can have three or four of them at a time. And instead of somebody remaining as a Magistrate for ten years before the former Chief Magistrate retires and then he can be promoted as a Chief Magistrate, it will be much better for him if after three or four years he can be promoted as a Senior Magistrate, and while on that post he can await his chance to become a Chief Magistrate. So, it seems to me that instead of keeping people back, this measure will push them forward a little more.

We are not only giving them more responsibilities but also we are giving them higher pay. And I think that the Magistrates themselves

are very anxious that we should do this. In the Western Region and I think in the East also they have this grade already.

There is no question of appointing any unqualified person as Magistrate Grade I. Grade III Magistrates who are really Justices of the Peace used to be appointed from the rank of people who have no legal training. But nobody without legal qualification is appointed Magistrate Grade I, or Senior Magistrate, or Chief Magistrate. These posts are reserved for those who have legal qualification.

Senator Abubakar Bale said something about having Alkalis there. I am afraid, this is something outside the purview of this Bill. And I do not think it can be welcomed by the people in Lagos.

I am at a loss really to understand exactly what Senator Chief Olayeye was driving at because I think he started by saying that there was too much collaboration between the Judiciary and the Executive and later on he talked about conflict between the two bodies. I would like to assure him that our Judiciary is as independent as any Judiciary can be anywhere in the world. We have a very independent Judiciary. Really, the purpose of this Bill is even to give officers who work in the Judiciary more independence. For example, instead of having Registrars appointed by the Public Service Commission this Bill seeks to hand them over to the Judicial Service Commission so that the Judiciary and all the officers there may be completely independent of the Executive. This is really making stronger that independence of the Judiciary which we have here in Nigeria.

I would also like to say that the promotions of the Magistrates and all the members of the Judiciary are not in the hands of the Executive. Their promotions are done by the Judicial Service Commission.

There is one point which was raised about our constitutional provisions. This is a temporary measure which is to be taken to enable some people in the Regions to overcome certain shortages of staff. For instance, if any Judge, say in the Northern Region, goes on leave—like at the moment if the Solicitor-General has not got the number of years required, that is, ten years post-call experience, he cannot act for him. But it may be necessary to allow a

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Solicitor-General who has say about eight or nine years post-call experience to act. In such a case the law should be made to enable this to happen.

Also under the new Legal Education Act people who are not Nigerians can hardly now practise law in Nigeria or be appointed from the Bar of Nigeria as Judges. But for some time yet to come it may be necessary for some of the Regions to employ people who are qualified as lawyers outside Nigeria and who may, in some cases, not be Nigerians, to fill certain posts until Nigerians are forthcoming. I appreciate the point that since we have so many lawyers in Nigeria it should be a good thing that available Nigerian lawyers should be appointed to the various posts in various parts of the country, not necessarily in the Federal Public Service alone.

Senator Abaagu made the same point more or less as Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku about the grade of Senior Magistrate. I have answered that point already. He also stressed the point, which I have already made, that people who are not qualified as lawyers should not be appointed as Magistrates. That is the practice at the moment. Magistrates, Grade I or Magistrates of a higher status can only be appointed from the rank of fully qualified lawyers. I think these are the points that have been made during this debate.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

JUDICIAL, ETC., OFFICES AND APPEALS BY PROSECUTORS BILL: CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clause 1—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2—(APPOINTMENT OF SENIOR MAGISTRATES FOR LAGOS).

Senator Chief A. O. Fagbenro-Beyioku: On the question of this clause I still wish to appeal to the Government in respect of the post of Senior Magistrates. I know very well that around the Federal territory of Lagos we have more than one Chief Magistrate, and we have a number of people who are at the moment acting as Chief Magistrates, and who definitely are looking forward to promotion to that grade. If one studies the progress which had been made within recent years one will find that, by and large, great increases have been made in the

number of Chief Magistrates from time to time, but I hold the view that perhaps Government feels that it is such a long jump from Grade I to Senior Magistrate, and this idea of Senior Magistrate has come in just to avoid that long jump. I do not consider it a long jump; rather I would say it is a high jump—a high jump which is highly desirable—because, by and large, we have Chief Magistrate and Senior Magistrate, the only difference being that the Senior Magistrate will be able to inflict punishment up to about £300 or three years imprisonment, and the Chief Magistrate up to about £500 or five years imprisonment. But, after all, it is the same procedure and there are some cases which may even call for less punishment and might be more tricky and more delicate to handle than those which, perhaps, are straightforward and call for more severe punishment.

I feel everybody who is serving as a Judge or Magistrate should have his fair share of the responsibility of the State, and in this respect progression in the Judiciary should be encouraged. There can be no stagnation; all Government has to do is to create more posts of what they call Chief Magistrate. Otherwise Government will be inviting stagnation if it fails to create more posts in the Chief Magistrate cadre.

I am still appealing to Government to reconsider its stand, and at the same time to give an assurance that people who are now acting as Chief Magistrates, with the hope of being promoted to the grade eventually, will not be deterred by this new Bill.

The Minister of Transport: I would like to emphasise again what I said before. I think, at the moment, there are two Chief Magistrates—one on the Island and the other on the Mainland. If that is so, then there can be about twelve people aspiring to these two posts as time goes on. So, as I said, if this new reform is introduced it means we may be able to have, say, four Senior Magistrates, so that of these twelve people who are patiently waiting, four of them can move one step forward. If that is done, nothing will stop them from moving up again to take the higher post of Chief Magistrate, and I do not think it does any harm. In fact, I think it does them some good, because they move up instead of remaining in one position and marking time.

There can be no question of anybody giving an assurance that somebody acting must necessarily get the promotion. I hope the Senator is not asking me to take over the job of the Judicial Service Commission, and I would not like to usurp the job of the Commission.

Clause 2—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clauses 3-5—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported, without Amendment, read the Third time and passed.

MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Transport : I beg to move, That a Bill for an Act to provide for the payment into the Consolidated Revenue Fund of forfeited wages in special cases and otherwise to amend the Merchant Shipping Act, 1962, be now read a Second time.

Senators will recall that when the Merchant Shipping Act was brought to the Senate last year it was suggested that the need for minor amendments would arise from time to time. The main Act, as Senators know, is a very voluminous one and it runs into 433 sections.

We have now discovered some discrepancies in the main Act and this short Bill before the House seeks to effect a number of minor amendments, particularly to section 122, subsection 2 of the principal Act, and also to correct some printing errors.

Clause 1 clarifies the destination of forfeited wages ordered by a Court of Law, and also prescribes what should be done with the wages under section 122 subsection (2) of the principal Act. The effect of the Amendment is to bring our own legislation into line with established practice throughout the Commonwealth. The remainder of the Bill only corrects minor printing errors.

The Bill is non-controversial and I commend it to the Senate.

The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Yusuff Maitama Sule) : I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time ; immediately considered in Committee ; reported, without Amendment ; read the Third time and passed.

DEFAMATION (AMENDMENT) BILL

Order for Second reading read.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : I rise to move, That a Bill for an Act to amend the Defamation Bill, 1961 be now read a Second time.

This is indeed a very short Bill. The only object of the Bill is to correct one single printing error where Part II was inserted in the original Act in subsection (2) of section 9 instead of Part III.

All that we are asking the Senate to do is to agree that "Part III" should be substituted for the words "Part II."

I beg to move.

The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Yusuff Maitama Sule) : I beg to second.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time ; immediately considered in Committee ; reported, without Amendment ; read the Third time and passed.

APPROPRIATION (1963-64) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Finance (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) : I have it in command from His Excellency the Governor-General to move that—

A Bill entitled "A Bill for an Act to authorise the issue out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of fifty-seven million nine hundred and sixty-three thousand one hundred and eighty pounds for the service of the year ending on the thirty-first day of March, one thousand nine hundred and sixty-four ; and to appropriate that amount for the purposes specified in this Act" be now read a Second time.

We are now living in a world of rapid and progress changes, in a world in which we cannot isolate ourselves from what is happening even in the remotest part of the world. Our yearnings are for the better things of life, food, shelter and clothing. The poor are no longer content to be poor, and the rich are aware that happiness and prosperity for all cannot be achieved if society and indeed the world is divided between the so called "haves and have-nots". We are all striving to improve the lot

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of mankind. This urge for a better way of life is sweeping the world. Economic progress is not limitless. No country in the world to-day can boast that it has attained the peak of economic progress. The urge for economic progress is just as great in the more advanced countries of Europe and North America as it is with us in Nigeria to-day. Indeed the irony is that the rate of progress in the advanced countries is very much greater than it is with the developing countries.

Doubtless, however, the whole world is making progress. Here in Nigeria, our progress is visible; we do not have to be economists to appreciate that the standard of living of our peoples has increased appreciably within the past ten to fifteen years. This does not mean that we are happy with the present level of economic activity of our country. Neither do we feel satisfied with the disparity in the national income between the advanced countries and the developing countries. It is our great desire to reduce this gap. But this cannot be achieved by mere words of exhortation, or by the desire itself; for economic progress does not operate in a vacuum. In the growth of Western industrialism, the application of capital to the processes of production has been for the most part in the hands of individual entrepreneurs. It would be unreasonable, however, to close one's eyes to a central feature in the greatest spurt of economic expansion the world has seen. The high level of economic activity has been achieved by the constant application of modern techniques and scientific discoveries to every aspect of their day to day activities. They have realised that it is only by hard work that a nation can make progress. They have made sacrifices, and have not consumed all that they have produced. They have saved some for the future and this has been channelled into productive investment. It has been said, "Capital formation can be permanently successful only in a capital-conscious community, and this condition, which is just as important for the continued maintenance as for the initial creation of capital, is promoted by a wide diffusion of investment activity among individuals".

The basic objective of the National Development Plan is to increase rapidly the standard of living of our people. We must accept this challenge and be prepared to make the sacri-

fices which are inevitable to achieve this objective. Nothing matters so much as the quality of the people. The personal habits and traits associated with the use of capital—among them initiative, prudence, ingenuity and foresightedness—give a deeper and surer base to a nation's economic advance. We must cast aside those social values and practices which inhibit economic growth. We must embark upon new techniques and ideas in our approach towards our economic and financial problems.

We are indeed proud of the achievements that we have made so far. It is our hope to consolidate these achievements and improve upon them. Our market economy is growing faster than the subsistence, and we are about to break through into a modern economy. Visible progress and modernisation can be seen in every aspect of our national life—in our buildings in the battle against illiteracy and diseases, in the new institutions growing up among us, and in the conduct of both our internal and external financial matters. This is only to mention a few. This, then, is why I have chosen to name this the "Modernisation Budget". (*Applause*).

In my last Budget speech, I emphasised that we must be prepared to make sacrifices and be prepared to do with less of those things that are not absolutely necessary. Our aim must be to build a more prosperous nation which must be passed on to our children and those who come after us. We are now embarking on the second year of our National Development Plan. It is far too early at this stage to assess accurately our performance in the past year. Provisional figures which are available reveal that capital expenditure in the public sector is estimated at about eighty million pounds, or only slightly more than the corresponding figure for the previous year although the Plan calls for average annual capital expenditure in this sector of some one hundred and ten million pounds. It must be understood that in the initial year of the Plan, a great deal of time and effort was necessarily devoted to preparing projects and obtaining external finances. As Senators are aware, I have been a consistent advocate of a prudent but realistic financial policy, and the Federal Government will not embark upon any capital projects which are not properly and carefully prepared having regard to the contribution

which the expenditure will make to the economic growth of the nation. The Federal Government realises that our financial resources are limited, prudence therefore dictates that we must exercise the greatest vigilance and caution in the expenditure of our scarce financial resources. The position in the private sector is encouraging. In the past year, private capital investment was probably between seventy and eighty million pounds, and substantial further investment may be expected in the coming year. This annual figure exceeds the amount envisaged in the Development Plan and goes some way to offset the lower level of capital investment made thus far in the public sector. By their very nature, these private investments invariably contribute to economic growth.

Government consumption is rising rapidly, and our recurrent expenditure is mounting up. With the attainment of independence, we have had to increase our expenditure on foreign affairs. In addition, there is the ever increasing demand for social services, particularly education, health and information. We will continue to watch very closely the increase in these items, for we cannot allow government recurrent expenditure to outstrip the growth of revenues. The National Development Plan will continue to call for mounting expenditure, particularly in the very vital field of Defence. Nigeria has no territorial ambition, but equally, we must strengthen our defence and security forces against both the external foe and internal traitor alike, whatever may be the cost.

A year ago, I introduced various amendments to the Central Bank Act and the Banking Act. The amendments were intended to enable the Central Bank and the commercial banking system to play a more positive role in the economy and in particular, to assume a much greater role in our nation's affairs. I am happy to say that the efforts of the Central Bank have continued to bring fruitful results, and Nigeria to-day can be proud of a modern capital and money market. Virtually all our requirements of short-term finance are now met locally, and both the government and private companies have been able to raise substantial amounts of long-term capital on our capital market. The Central Bank continues to make a substantial contribution to the financing of the National Development Plan; apart from its own holding, it has encouraged the widest possible spread

of Development Loan stocks, particularly by the institutions, in order to maximise genuine savings from this source to finance our development.

During the year, the commercial banking system has become significantly orientated to domestic credit needs as the demands for credit have expanded. Both deposits and advances have continued to rise, clearly indicating the expansion that is going on in the economy and the role which the banking system is playing. Two major developments affecting currency also took place during the past year. West African Currency Board notes and coin ceased to be legal tender on the first of July, 1962, after nearly a century of circulation within Nigeria. On that date it was estimated that there was rather less than four million pounds of such coin still in circulation. By the end of the year, when the conversion arrangement expired, rather less than a quarter of a million pounds of coin was estimated to be still in circulation. In order to avoid possible hardship, particularly in the remote parts of the country, the Federal Government agreed to extend to the thirty-first of March the period during which the old coin would still be accepted in payment of taxes or for redemption at Government, Local Government and Native Authority Treasuries throughout the country, the cost of exchange being borne by the Federal Government. With effect from the first of April, West African Currency Board notes and coin are for all purposes a foreign currency.

I cannot complete my statement on the Central Bank without making reference to the role of the present Governor of the Central Bank, Mr R. P. Fenton. Mr Fenton has been with us for almost five years and his term of office expires on the twenty-fourth July this year. The great success which the Central Bank has made during these five years has been largely due to the efforts of Mr Fenton. I have found him to be a loyal, diligent, and conscientious friend of Nigeria. An able adviser, and a man who has contributed a lot to the present financial structure of our country of which we are all proud. When Mr Fenton leaves, he will be succeeded by a Nigerian, Mallam Aliyu Mai Bornu, the present Deputy Governor, and he will in turn be succeeded by Mr A. N. Abai, at present the Secretary to the Bank.

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On the issue of domestic savings, Senators must have heard that Her Excellency, Mrs Flora Azikiwe was kind enough to open the National Savings Campaign and she purchased the first National Savings Certificate to be issued. Since that time, Certificates and Premium Bonds have been available to the public. The response so far has not been very encouraging, but I intend to intensify the National Savings Campaign. This sort of savings has been geared to attract the small saver, and it is my hope that Senators will assist in the campaign by promoting the sale of these securities in their various constituencies (I beg your pardon, Mr President, if they have constituencies at all. I understand that Senators have no constituencies). The draw for the first premium bond prizes took place on the 1st April, and a great deal of public interest was created by the draw, for, the prizes were evenly distributed throughout the whole Federation. Because of the great public interest created by the first draw, very many people would now like to buy bonds and take part in the July draw. This would not normally be possible because a bond is to be held for three clear calendar months before taking part in a draw, and any bond bought in April would normally be eligible in August and thus have to wait for the draw in October. As this is a new scheme which has come late to the attention of many people, I have decided to accommodate this public interest by allowing bonds purchased in April 1963 to take part in the July 1963 draw.

When we make appeal for national savings, the aim is to demonstrate that we are prepared to carry a substantial burden of our development. Real economic growth cannot take place without savings, which must be channelled into productive investment. The national income cannot rise without increased productivity, therefore, any agitation for increased wages must be matched by increased productivity. (My hon. Friend, Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku, is not here now. I hope he will come and hear what I have to say about this). We cannot afford now any unjustified increases in wages. This Government believes that increased wages will only bring real benefits to all if accompanied by increased productivity. A mere increase in money incomes would not achieve anything at all except economic disaster for us all.

As regards our external financial position, although final figures for the year 1962 are not yet available, it is clear that the position last year was better than the previous one. The visible trade gap—that is the excess of imports over exports which amounted to over fifty million pounds in 1960 and over fifty-three million pounds in 1961 was reduced last year to rather less than thirty-six million. It is, however, interesting to note that imports of capital equipment and machinery other than vehicles rose significantly. The performance of our exports was disappointing. The prices for many of our products are still governed by the existence of surplus world supplies. We will continue in our efforts to seek new markets for our exports and to strengthen our position in our existing markets. During the past year, we signed bilateral trade agreements with several countries.

We will also continue to explore the possibilities for increased trade and economic co-operation with other African states. Our external reserves position remains reasonably strong, and I anticipate a much greater volume of foreign aid in the coming year. The policies which we are following should increasingly strengthen our overall position.

Mr President, now we shall go to discuss our recurrent Budget. In 1961-62, the actual surplus on our recurrent Budget exceeded thirteen and a half million pounds—some three million pounds more than I thought we could hope for. The whole of this money has been set aside to finance capital expenditure. For the year which has just closed, I estimated a recurrent Budget surplus of something over twelve million pounds. In fact, I believe the actual surplus will prove to have been somewhat less than this—about nine million pounds. There are two main reasons for this: the first is a short-fall of something like six million pounds in the revenues we derived from general import duties. The steep increases in duty which I imposed last year were designed both to increase revenue and to cut back the level of imports. To a considerable extent, these objectives are mutually contradictory, and I warned at the time that the actual yield might be very different from my forecast. But we cannot have it both ways and the short-fall in our revenues from import duties is balanced by a sharp slackening off in the drain on our foreign exchange reserves to pay

for imports. However, I think the success of the taxation measures I introduced a year ago is best illustrated by the fact that revenues from general import duties last year were almost eight million pounds more than the previous year, despite a ten *per cent* fall in the volume of imports. That is the way we want to see the pattern developing.

The draft Estimates now before Senators envisage Federal retained revenue of slightly less than seventy-five million pounds and recurrent expenditure at almost sixty-nine and a half million pounds. I am therefore budgetting for a recurrent surplus of some £5.4 million which I have treated as to £4.6 million contribution to the Development Fund and eight hundred thousand pounds nominal surplus which, in accordance with the usual practice, will also be transferred to the Development Fund to finance capital expenditure at the close of the year.

There are, of course, many changes in the revenue Estimates when compared with the previous year but only two are worthy of special mention. First, I have assessed the revenue from general import duties at fifty million pounds—some four million pounds more than the revised figure for last year. Secondly, we can no longer look forward to the special revenues we derived from premiums on petroleum concessions which last year yielded over four and half million pounds. This is, however, partially offset by an increase of over one and a quarter million pounds to £5.2 million in our ordinary income from oil exploration and production.

The Federal recurrent expenditure on the other hand at sixty-nine point five million pounds is running at about six million pounds over the projections made when the Development Plan was drawn up, even after allowing for a measure of under-expenditure. The draft Estimates for 1963-64 reflect an increase of ten million pounds over the approved Estimates for the current year, but this is perhaps not a fair comparison since, when the approved Estimates were drawn up, it was known that further expenditure of about three million pounds, chiefly for education, would have to be provided in the First Supplementary Estimates. The true increase is thus of the order of seven million pounds over the figure for the past year.

I have repeatedly warned of the very grave dangers inherent in the mounting level of Federal recurrent expenditure in recent years. As its name implies, recurrent expenditure constitutes a recurring and permanent drain on our revenues. Furthermore, since contributions from revenue are a major source of finance for the Development Plan which alone can ensure the growth of the economy and of government revenues, increased recurrent expenditure automatically reduces the size of such contributions and our ability to finance our own Development Programme. It should not be overlooked that each one pound spent on recurrent expenditure reduces the resources available to finance development. A high level of recurrent expenditure also has other serious monetary and economical implications.

For these reasons, I have decided upon a novel departure. We have achieved some successes with various economy measures in the past few years—the introduction of economy class air travel for civil servants has probably been the most significant single item. However, it is my intention that the need for economy should be brought home to every person concerned with spending public money, whether he be a Permanent Secretary or whether he be in a more lowly position and responsible only for spending a few pounds. As Senators are aware, when Parliament has enacted an Appropriation Bill, it is my responsibility to authorise the actual expenditure of monies not exceeding the amount appropriated by Parliament. It is my intention, after Parliament approves this Bill based upon the Estimates now before you, to authorise expenditure of up to ninety-five *per cent* of the amount shown under Heads twenty-three to sixty-three of these Estimates. The remaining five *per cent* will be frozen and can only be expended with my prior specific sanction. In this way, I hope we shall be able to bring home to all concerned the practical realities of economy in public expenditure.

There are no major shocks in my tax proposals this year, but with effect from the midnight of 2nd April, duties on certain items have gone up. The import duties on tinned meats and poultry were increased from twenty-five to fifty *per cent ad valorem* and on biscuits from thirty-three and one-third to fifty *per cent*, whilst as we all now know, the minimum specific duty on imported shoes was raised

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from two shillings and sixpence to three shillings and sixpence *per pair* and a new minimum duty of four shillings each was imposed on suit cases and similar goods in nested form. All these changes are intended solely to provide increased needed protection to Nigerian industry. Other changes include a special reduced rate of duty on grey cloth for processing by the new textile mills now being established in Eastern Nigeria until Nigerian industry is geared to produce cloth of the particular type required, exemption from duty on equipment required for water and irrigation works, a reduction in the duty on fuel oil used by the Nigerian Electricity Supply Company to place it on all fours with the Electricity Corporation and a reduction from twenty-five to five *per cent ad valorem* in the duty on omnibuses. This last is intended to encourage the use of properly constructed buses and so reduce the slaughter on our roads resulting from the use of ill-designed and overloaded 'mammy wagons'. In order to strengthen our revenue position, I will continue to wage the battle against smuggling in all its forms. In this respect, I must again express my deep appreciation for the valuable assistance which has been given to the Preventive Service by the Royal Nigerian Navy and the Nigeria Police who have co-operated to the full in measures to stamp out this traffic.

Before leaving the question of revenues, I wish to announce one minor change in the taxation arrangements affecting capital allowances. An annual allowance at the rate of ten *per cent*, is at present allowed against rental income in the case of buildings or properties leased to tenants. The owner is, of course, liable to pay tax on the balance of his rental income. Due to the general shortage of building finance, there has recently grown up an arrangement whereby a contractor undertakes to erect a house for a Nigerian owner upon condition that the whole of the ensuing rent will be paid to the contractor until he has recovered all his costs and other charges. Under this system, of course, the owner would not himself actually receive any rental income until the contractor's charges had been met in full, although as the law stands at present he would be liable to tax on it. In consequence, some Nigerian owners have been obliged to dispose of their houses to foreigners in order to obtain money to meet their tax liabilities. In future, in cases of this

nature, a special discretionary capital allowance will be granted which would have the effect of depreciating the value of the house over the period during which the whole of the rental income is utilised to cover the costs. In other words, the whole of the rental income during this period would be offset by capital allowances. Thereafter, the owner will be liable to taxation on the full rental income without further allowances. This change is designed to help speed up the development of the areas of Lagos and in particular to ensure that Nigerian owners are not compelled to dispose of their properties to foreigners. As such, I am sure it will commend itself to all sides of this House.

When framing the draft Capital Estimates for the coming year, we have taken great care to concentrate investment in those sectors which will contribute to economic growth. The exception to this is of course to be found in the expenditure on Defence and Security to which, for reasons not of our own choice, we must now accord top priority and to divert to them resources which would otherwise have been used to secure our economic growth. In framing the draft Estimates, we have had three major considerations in mind.

First, taking into account executive capacity, state of preparedness of projects and financial and economic implications, we feel we should aim at a total level of capital expenditure in the public sector of between one hundred and one hundred and ten million pounds, that is an increase of thirty million pounds over the past year. Allowing for expenditure by the Regions and the Statutory Corporations, this envisages actual expenditure of some fifty million pounds by the Federal Government, an increase of fifteen million pounds over the past year.

Secondly, in order to achieve the objectives of the Development Plan, it is essential that the maximum investment be made in the Development Sector which alone will lead to growth in the economy and in Government revenues. The position is made more acute by the need, accepted by all, to provide substantially greater sums for the Defence and Police. These needs were not envisaged in the original Development Programme and to accommodate them, other desirable projects have had to be deferred. In order to concentrate available monies upon productive invest-

ments, there has inevitably been a severe cut back in provision for social overheads, and a reduction in the provision for social overheads, and a reduction in the provision required for development of universities.

Thirdly, the need to secure external finance for virtually every project becomes more acute every day. If domestic resources are committed to financing the full cost of projects we cannot hope to complete more than a small portion of our Development Programme. Fortunately, due to the considerable planning and preparation of new projects in the past year, we can be more hopeful that substantial external finance will be forthcoming in the next few months.

The total provision in the draft Capital Estimates amounts to just over fifty-four million pounds. To this must be added some thirteen million pounds carried forward from 1962-63 giving a total budgetted expenditure in 1963-64 of just over sixty-seven million pounds. A large measure of under-expenditure is inevitable and I have ventured to assess this at some seventeen million pounds. Thus I envisage actual capital expenditure by the Federal Government in the coming year at slightly over fifty million pounds. The extent to which we have been able to adhere to the priorities for investment which I have outlined will be clear for a detailed scrutiny of the draft Estimates themselves.

Before I close, I would like to take the opportunity in this House of paying tribute to three senior expatriates with whom I have worked closely and who will shortly be retiring from Nigeria. The first is Mr R. E. Marsh, the most conscientious and hardworking Accountant-General. The second is Mr F. G. Quinton, Chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise, to whom is due in very large measure the credit for the ability of this Department to meet the changing needs of our times. Finally, I come to Mr R. A. Clarke, the Permanent Secretary of my Ministry, who has indeed proved a tower of strength to me in the difficult years of our transition from colonial tutelage to sovereign nation. I shall miss them all as personal friends and advisers. They have, each and everyone of them, deserved well of Nigeria and my sorrow at their departure is tempered by my gladness that we now have available competent and experienced Nigerians to succeed them.

It is extremely difficult to attempt to condense into a short speech a review of the economic and financial position of our country. Much I have had to omit. But I hope I have been able to provide a coherent picture. We look into the future with courage and with hope. There is no call or reason for despair. We are, each and everyone of us, faced with a major challenge, the creation of a modern Nigeria which will benefit our children and those who come after us far more than we can hope to benefit ourselves. To accept such a challenge is surely the hall-mark of a great nation.

Mr President, Sir, I beg to move.

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

Senator E. A. Lagunju : We congratulate our able Minister of Finance for the fitting title he has given his Appropriation Bill this year. He has called it the "Modernisation Budget" and no other title could be more fitting than this. At present we realise we need a modern army, modern air force, modern techniques and modern methods in our agriculture and education. As far as the title is concerned, it is really a fitting one. However, there are certain aspects of the Budget I will like to comment upon although we all know how difficult it is to budget for a young and growing country like ours.

It is gratifying to know that we are spending about £150,000 yearly on Agricultural Research. We are often told that Nigeria is principally an agricultural country and we all admitted this as a matter of course. If we are agriculturists, does it imply that we can only produce raw materials, send them across, and of course, pay for transportation when these things are brought back to us as finished articles? Even when we spend a large amount of money on Research, there is just a question that worries my mind. That question, is how far has the native farmer adopted this modern methods and techniques? For years and years we have been spending a large amount on research.

I do realise that Agriculture is a concurrent subject, but even then, if one goes to any research station, one finds that the native farmer is a stone-throw to that research station. The native farmer does not seem to appreciate the amount of money spent on research and not much effort has been made

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by the Government to make the native farmers realise that results of researches and experiments made are for the benefit of the native farmers. As a matter of fact, I often wonder whether the Agricultural officers do make any effort at all to tell any of these native farmers results of their experiments. Some of them think they are there merely to carry out researches and experiments and that is the end of it all. They get their promotions quite all right without minding and we keep on spending a large sum of money on Agriculture year in and year out.

I think if we want our farmers to live above subsistence level something must be done. We must be prepared to hand over to them the results of experiments that are really satisfying and no ordinary farmer can afford wasting a lot of money on a particular method of farming, which of course, will not yield him revenue. Therefore, if the Government is prepared to spend so much on researches, my advice is that we need more Agricultural Schools and better displays of satisfactory results on modern techniques. In other words if some of our experiments or researches are really successful and we are proud of them, why do we not show them to the farmers and tell them that if they undertake this and spend so much on it, such will be the ultimate result? It will be a sane proposition.

Many educated young ones will be keen on farming if they realise that it is a paying occupation. But when they realise that we spend a lot of money on experiments upon experiments and no tangible results are achieved, of course, nobody will be prepared to take to farming. On the other hand, if there is a greater display of satisfactory results, I think it will not be out of the way, for people to do farming.

The Federal Government should be prepared to subsidise farming. Even in the civilised countries of the world Agriculture is subsidised. The British farmer is subsidised so that he may be satisfied and produce greater products and be able to compete with others. It is time we did something like this, otherwise we shall keep on crying about agriculture without getting anything out of it. Many prospective and excellent farmers who are doing very well should be

encouraged and the only way to encourage them is to subsidise them.

In some oversea countries, if a farmer is damaging the qualities of the land he may be penalised, but I think we have not done anything to encourage them, therefore, I advise that we should encourage them first, and see what we get out of that.

I now come to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. There is an overall increase of £99,490. This is not a bad thing but we should intensify our efforts to set up village industries while protecting the industries already set up so that all these industries are not left in the bud. It is gratifying that the Minister mentioned, among other things, the question of protecting certain nascent industries by imposing duties on some foreign goods. If the purpose is to encourage local production this is pleasing, but as I have said we still have to promote the setting up of more village industries, otherwise, we shall find all our people drifting from the villages into large towns and creating greater problems of unemployment.

I come now to the Ministry of Communications. In one of the pamphlets the Minister of Communications mentioned among other things his desire to put up more post offices and improve human relationship by making the operators more courteous. Every time we speak a great deal about this Ministry of Communications and about the behaviour of the operators. We are happy there is some improvement, but we still have a long way to go. I think since that Ministry is not under-staffed if an operator keeps on misbehaving and cannot submit herself to discipline further disciplinary measures should be taken.

If we turn to page 49 of the Estimates, it seems there is a lot of duplication in this Ministry. You have Director General and Permanent Secretary, Adviser to Director General at Contract rate not exceeding £5,000; Permanent Secretary, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Director, Group 3; Deputy Director, Group 4A; Director of Administration, and so on and so forth. To my mind, there is a lot of duplication of offices and it will cause a lot of drain and I do not think it makes even for better co-ordination of efforts. In a place where you have just one Director you get all these other people, whether they are Senior Assistant Secretaries or whatever they are,

whatever post they hold, they are directly under one single Director. When somebody is a Director in his own right, he feels he is self-sufficient. That is my personal opinion and when one realises that we pay about £3,000 plus to a single Director and have so many Directors, one wonders whether that is expedient for a country with limited resources.

It is gratifying to note that the Minister is prepared to lower the unit from 25,000 to 18,000 for raising a postal agency to a sub-post office. The earlier this is implemented the better for us.

Now I come to the Ministry of Defence. We realize we need more than defence for protection against man's inhumanity to man, but I think greater emphasis should be laid on the Navy and the Air Force since we need only Mobile Forces in this hydrogen bomb age. Personally, I feel in most of the countries of the world, greater emphasis is being laid on the Air Force and the Navy rather than on the Army because no matter how efficient an Army may be, when the Air Force is on top dropping bombs the Army can do very little. I do not say we do not need the Army, but we need a form of Mobile Force limited in scope and in size but well equipped.

I sincerely hope the Federal Government will go all out to buy up-to-date weapons from countries that have been very good on land forces, for instance, the Federal Republic of Germany. I sincerely hope we are not going to limit ourselves to buying equipments only from Great Britain. I do not say we should not buy from Britain but we all realize that the Germans are the best on land, and there is nothing wrong. I hope that we are not going to discriminate in our purchase of weapons and I hope we shall buy up-to-date weapons and that obsolete weapons will not be thrust upon us because when we go out for something like that, invariably, we get old guns and things that have been scrapped in other places being brought this way, and since we are not all that experienced in these things there may be a policy of deliberate dumping. I hope we shall see to this.

We should do all we can to Nigerianise the Army as soon as suitable Nigerians are trained for this purpose. I am not advocating Nigerianising at all costs because we may have to sacrifice efficiency for Nigerianisation.

We are talking of defence and that brings us to the question of our security: Sometime ago it was mentioned that a Senior officer divulged official secret and was only reduced in rank. Recently, there was a similar case of somebody finding some secret documents just in the sitting room or something like that. I think whatever we can do in the way of security should be done; before somebody is placed in that position he must have been fully tried, because it is even ridiculous. Reduction in rank to my mind is not a sufficient deterrent. Of course, it all depends on the value of the official secret divulged but if it is something that is really important, whether classified or unclassified, I think a severer punishment should be inflicted upon people to make them realise the gravity of the offence because I cannot imagine when secrets were divulged like that in our colonial days by our colonial masters. Now that we are on our own, we are really competent to run our own affairs. Then, of course, we must be in better position to keep secrets. If we have no secrets, wherein lies our defence and security? I think this is very important and I sincerely hope we do all we can to look into this matter.

It is my intention to touch on only a few salient points as I realise there are many Senators who are anxious to speak. The other point I want to mention is, of course, the question of education. It seems our pattern of education should be re-examined in the light of the needs of the country. We have produced too many black-coated workers, people who can only look into offices for jobs: people who cast aspersion on skilled labour and consequently we begin to cry about unemployment, whereas there should be plenty of opportunities for employment in a young and growing country like this. I think we should do something about this and I think in the past we have laid too much emphasis on theoretical education, without any practical bias whatsoever. In other words, it was just a question of passing the School Certificate and going into an office and of course, you get the job.

Even in the past, a boy in Class IV was assured of his employment and by the time a boy had attained Class IV or School Certificate, his job was already waiting for him. But the situation has changed now, and therefore we have got to change with the time,

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Otherwise, we will get a large army of boys roaming about the streets and doing nothing. It will be a sorry picture in a young country to see a large number of people unemployed.

I do not associate myself with those people who speak of mass unemployment. You cannot get that in any part of the world, but we all realise that there is a certain amount of unemployment in this country and unless we try to change our pattern of education, it will continue. There should be greater emphasis on technical or vocational training. We should get these boys into some technical or vocational training—things in which they have aptitude. If we do this, then, of course, they will be fitted for different jobs. They will work as masons, brick-layers, fishermen. It does not matter—we all need fish. Let us give them whatever training they can be proud of and by which they will be able to earn a living. There are still coal miners, porters and different grades of people in all parts of the world. The only thing is to get the boys trained. But as long as we put a stigma upon skilled labour and feel that somebody is too big to do this type of jobs, we shall not go anywhere and shall not progress. Therefore, I will rather emphasise this need to modernise our system of education and to get from any part of the world any system that will benefit all of us, be from Russia or anywhere.

As I said from the beginning, it is not my intention to speak at length. Let us modernise in any way; let us help our youngmen. Because there are many others wishing to speak, and in order to avoid repetition, I beg to support.

Senator M. B. Chukwubike: I rise to support the Second Reading of this year's Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I have a few observations to make. I need not recapitulate all the praises that were showered on the Minister of Finance and our Prime Minister. I have only to add that the baptismal name of this year's Budget reflects the ability of the Federal Government and the good intention it has for the whole Federation, and also that Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh is in a position that is very rarely equalled.

We are free to criticise this Minister as well as the other Ministers, but if we love this country and want dynamism, our criticisms must be constructive.

I have a point to make on the Ministry of Defence. The Government acted wisely by increasing the vote for this Ministry. I do not share the views expressed in certain quarters that this increase should have gone to either the Ministry of Agriculture or Education. The Government's intention is to help carry out our agricultural and other projects in an atmosphere of the greatest security. We know that if security is not assured, we cannot carry out this programme with a rest of mind. We all know also that confusion and chaos exist all over the world to-day, and that some careless individuals have carefully smuggled dangerous weapons into this country and many other countries of the world. I do not see why a legitimate Government like our own cannot afford to have a fortified fort. I want to underline very strongly the importance of having a strong fort for, without this, we shall have a large but impotent army. I feel happy with this increase which is mainly to strengthen our force and also to buy some weapons for the defence of the nation. But I feel also that it is high time that we should start to learn how to manufacture some of these weapons in this country. There is nothing practically that we can manufacture in this country. It is high time that we sent people abroad to learn how to manufacture, not only to go and come back as B.A. and M.A. We must not fold our arms while others are trying to conquer space and to colonise the moon.

Just a word on the Ministry of Trade and Industry. The worthy President ruled me out of order during the Second Reading of the Produce (Amendment) Bill when I wanted to raise this point. I think this is the right time for me to raise this issue, and I do not want to dwell too long on it. It is a very important point which is in the interest of the nation. I repeat here that of all the groups of workers that we have in this country, the most dishonest group is the Palm Produce Examiners. This is a fact. I have transactions with them and I have much experience in the trade. Many of us here who deal with this set of people will agree with me that they are nothing but crooks.

In the first place, I think the aim for which these examiners are employed has been defeated. They are employed to examine produce, to reject bad ones and to pass good ones. They delay our produce sellers very

unduly, but once a good sum of money is offered them, whether the produce is good or bad, they pass the goods for sale at once. This, we all know, does not give our country any good name abroad. If they are not given money, they continue to delay or detain the seller. After torturing and duping the people, the traders go back to seek a way of recovering their losses.

The Minister of Finance : On a point of order, Produce Inspection is a Regional matter.

The President : The Senator said that I rule him out of order ; here is another point of order coming.

Senator Chukwubike : At times, one hears that the Prime Minister is conferring with the Regional Premiers. I think that the Minister of Finance also does confer with the Regional Ministers of Finance, and that a matter of this nature, which is of national interest, should be brought to the notice of his Regional counterparts. That is the point I want to make, and before I leave it, I must say that many of us make statements on the Floor of this House about the price of our palm produce. I repeat it again that it will help everybody, it will help the nation, if the Minister of Finance takes this up with his counterparts in the Regions.

I want to say a word or two on the increase of taxes on certain imported goods. I very much appreciate this to a certain extent. The Minister of Finance has made himself a good name by these increases. That gospel of our late Mazi Mbonu Ojike is repeating itself here. Ojike said that we should boycott all boycottables. I feel that the Minister has made these increases in order that we may boycott all imported goods the like of which we now make in this country. For this move, I praise the Minister very much. I would ask all of us, as the fathers of the nation, to take pride in our own made in Nigeria goods. Let us buy goods which are made in Nigeria. Not only that, let us also take to Nigerian dishes.

This raises another important matter. If one goes to the Catering Rest Houses in the Regions, even here in Lagos, where foreign and native dishes are prepared, Nigerians, particularly ladies, prefer foreign dishes to Nigerian ones. They take ham and all delicacies which we all know are injurious to our health.

Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku : They are good.

Senator Chukwubike : They are not. We have their alternatives in this country.

Senator Asemota : Is the Senator a dietitian ?

Senator Chukwubike : I am not, but if the Minister of Health were here now, he would support me.

Why can we not take to our own native diet in our hotels and encourage production of those food materials ? If we show example by taking things made in Nigeria then we shall encourage external patronage.

Let me come to a point on what we call illicit gin. I have a word to say on it. Our former masters gave it the name "illicit" gin. I have noted with the greatest disappointment the omission of this important issue in the Modernisation Budget. The Minister of Finance had already answered a series of questions about it and I thought that he would have made a consoling statement on this point in his Budget speech. Before we got our independence, this our own distilled wine had been called "illicit" gin because our then masters wanted to protect their economic interests. But now that we have got our independence, why should we continue to call it "illicit" gin ? If it is "illicit", what are we doing to make it licit ? Is it by legalising the distillation of it, or is the Government going to take up the building of a refinery for it ? I am saying that if we find that by legalising this our gin we shall regard it as licit, then it is high time the Government thought of legalising it. If it is to be legalised, let it be legalised and the Government should build a refinery for this purpose. We call it partly distilled gin ; but I can say that even here in Lagos people drink it more than people drink BKT. in the Northern Region, or palm-wine in the Eastern Region.

Senator S. Asemota : What is BKT. ?

Senator Chukwubike : It is a short form for *Burukutu*.

If it is not good to our health, why do we allow people to drink it ? At the moment, it is not legalised but people continue to drink it. If it is legalised, I believe it will be more

[SENATOR CHUKWUBIKE] refined. It will also help us in many ways. It will make a very lucrative industry ; it will increase our economy, minimise unemployment, and let go the last nail on the cause of smuggling, and all these White Horse whisky, Black and White whisky, and so on, will have no market any longer in this country. Therefore, I am appealing to the Minister to see to it that the Government takes this matter up. We need industries for our unemployed youths.

I have just a word on agriculture. All the Governments of the Federation are making names for themselves by their bold move upon agriculture. This is very good. But unfortunately the type of education we received from our earlier colonial friends did not at all encourage agriculture. I am happy that the Governments of this country have, since after independence, been trying in every way possible to make agriculture a very lucrative thing. But in the mean time, I must say that much harm has already been done. We should know that our elementary schools are producing millions of boys and girls every year, ditto our secondary schools, and sooner or later our five Universities will start to turn out graduates. Also, we have thousands of our people studying overseas.

In addition to our farm settlements which are at present absorbing some of the school leavers, I want to make a little suggestion. I want to fall in line with the Senator who spoke before me. He spoke about all these long years of research. Many Senators spoke about this last year. The Government is till voting another huge sum of money for that this year. I am appealing to the Government to meet the people in the villages, the people who have fertile land, and teach them the use of modern farming tools. The Government should buy these modern tools for each Division. They should be let out to the farmers. I am sure that this will help to make farming a very lucrative business. The present method of our farming is very crude. Nobody likes to take to it. So, I am once again appealing to the Government that in addition to having the farm settlements, a sum out of this money that is being set aside for researches should be used for improvement of farming in the Regions.

If one thinks about what this country will look like in about ten years time, one will

foresee a very big revolution. In India there are some graduates who are bus conductors, porters and court messengers. We do not want to have a similar thing in this country. Therefore, this is the time to plan how to shelter our school leavers.

I only want to touch on one other point, and that is the Police Force. When I talk of the Police, I want to say what experience I had when I was travelling from Lagos earlier this month. When we got to Ilesha we had minor troubles and we asked for a Police van. The complaint we received was that a big town like Ilesha had only one old police van and that at that moment it was under repairs. They telephoned Ile Ife and the report they got was that they had only one vehicle and that that vehicle had been sent to Ibadan road where there was a fatal accident. I started to wonder whether all the vans we see on the roads bearing the name "Police" really belong to the Police, or whether "Police" was just written on them to deceive people. I also wondered why big towns like Ife and Ilesha should have only one police van each, bearing in mind the position of the places and the number of accidents that we have on that road every day. I feel that more vans should be provided for the Police.

I do not want to take up the time of Senators who would like to speak after me. I therefore would conclude by saying that I support the Bill.

12.50 p.m.

Senator T. Olamijulo : I rise to support this Bill with a few comments.

I think that many of us here are very good farmers, that is why many Senators spoke about farming. We should realise that in this country we live largely on farming. But what have we been able to do all these years in this direction ?

Experiments that do not pay are what we find being conducted by the Government here and there. The old method of farming is still being used, even the implements are still the old types. Without the aid of the Governments the farmers are getting on with the job ; they know the time to start planting their seeds and they know when to start doing anything regarding their farms. With all the experiment that had been carried out what advantages have school boys and girls had to make them

interested in farming? I think it is time the Government began to think of helping the Regional Governments in their endeavour to encourage agriculture in the country. That is what I have to say about agriculture.

I now want to say something about industry. We have raw material like rubber, why should we not manufacture bicycle tyres? I think it is high time to do something to provide employment for our teeming school leavers. The assembling of motor parts can also do a lot to reduce unemployment.

With regard to the manufacture of illicit gin in Nigeria, there are a lot of people who demand that we legalise it in this country. I feel a young country like Nigeria should not engage in the distillation of such a strong type of alcohol. We can take a leaf from the Northerners who are, in most cases, teetotalers, and who because they do not take drinking are of good manners compared with those who drink. I think it will do us more harm than good if we encourage the drinking and distilling of illicit gin in this country.

I beg to support.

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : Thank you very much, Mr President, for giving me this opportunity to say something.

Senator Chief A. O. Fagbenro-Beyioku : On a point of order, the hon. Gentleman has packed off, so I should take over from him.

Senator Asemota : I should like, first of all, to say how pleasing it is to hear the Minister of Finance saying in his opening speech that any increase in wages without a corresponding increase in productivity will not be encouraged by Government in future. This is very welcome. I do hope that it is not going to remain on paper as it is without Government doing something to carry it out, because I remember in this country when Government intends to put a stop to the demands for increased wages without compensating increase in productivity the trade unions used to twist their hands so that the Government find themselves so badly embarrassed that they yield. And you know what it is to yield. They are so clever that they press for increased wages when elections are at hand.

The Minister of Finance : On a point of information, I am only asking the Senatoa to be careful lest somebody might stab him behind.

Senator Asemota : Thank you very much. I shall be on the alert.

As I said the trade unions are so clever to bring pressure to bear on the Government when elections are almost round the corner. They know, quite naturally, that at election time everybody will go back to the electorate and ask for votes; and then the trade unionists will say, "Yes, this is the time for us to drive this thing home". They put pressure on the Government and what happened? A commission of enquiry will be set up to end in the demand being met.

Government, as we all know, does not do trading, farming or engage in any business. The only way the Government gets money to pay for the increased wages is by taxation, tax on vehicles, tax on food and tax on all sorts of commodities, to be able to get money to make up any imbalance. If Government has decided now that there will be no increase in wages without increase in productivity I do hope that they will carry it out to the letter.

The other thing I would like to refer to concerns Revenue Head 5, Sub-head 22 in the Estimate. Under Revenue Head 5 Sub-head 22, I am delighted to see that the Ministry responsible has increased revenue three hundred *per cent* over last year's estimated receipt. I suppose this is an indication of increased activity, but unfortunately the Ministry's efforts have not reached the efficiency level.

One cannot say it appears that Government is fulfilling its duty of inspecting weights and measures. I know of places where no inspection had been carried out for several years, particularly in the area where I come from. Weights and measures, I must confess, have not been inspected there for several years and, as a result of that, the Government must have been losing a lot of money.

The President : Order. Sitting suspended till three o'clock.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.

Senator Asemota : I now wish to speak on Head 22—Cabinet Office. Under sub-heads 37 and 39 of this Head there is a total allocation of £9,000 for allowances and expenses and honoraria of various categories of Economic Advisers. This is in addition to the provision of £3,000 under Item (10) of sub-head 1 of the same Head of Expenditure.

I suppose these scales of allowances and honoraria are necessary because of the need to bring out expatriate personnel as we cannot hope, for a long time, to produce locally all the categories of experts we will need to promote our economic development speedily.

I feel compelled to make a plea that special effort be made to create a nucleus of our own local economists and other experts. I understand we have with us a certain group of experts called "Arthur D. Little Group". I am told that they are attached to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. I do not know what they are actually doing. I do not know whether they are training Nigerians or not. I would like the Government to tell us what are their real duties because I recollect that when we were drawing up the 1962-68 Development Plan, we imported certain expert economists from the United States and elsewhere. What these men did, we do not know. Are they training Nigerians? If so, where are the Nigerians now?

I also notice that we have an Economic Adviser and an Industrial Adviser under Head 24, sub-head 1, Item (8) of the Estimates. These Economic and Industrial Advisers appear to me to be interwoven in their duties and I would like to know what are their duties singly and collectively. I trust, however, that we are ensuring that these men will be replaced by competent Nigerians. If this is not part of our plan, then I must say that the scheme to bring out these experts is in the long run a useless expenditure.

I see also that we have an institution called the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research to which is allocated £40,000 under sub-head 51, Head 30. Is this not the place where Nigerian experts are supposed to be loaded with experience? Is this Institute not supposed to provide us with expert advice? What is it doing and for how long has it been functioning and with what result? As I look at the whole picture, I seem to see experts here,

experts there, and experts everywhere. I hope they are properly co-ordinated and that their duty in the long run will be to train Nigerians to take over from them when the time comes for them to pack away.

Ministry of Communications—We have for over three or four years received series of promises about the installation of an automatic telephone exchange at Benin. When will this be done? The Minister of Communications said then that arrangements had been on foot for some time and that the new installation would be made as early as possible. I hope that the Government will still bear that in mind and give us an exact date when they expect to change the present telephone system in Benin into an automatic exchange.

The next Head in the Estimate with which I would like to deal is Economic Development. I was very pleased to learn the other day of the vast progress in the provision of primary, post primary and university education facilities. The numbers now being turned out from each category of institution and the number proposed to be turned out in the future are a great testimony to this progress.

It is also equally gratifying to learn that the problem of adequate and satisfactory utilisation of the output of these institutions is being borne in mind.

I note the establishment of a Manpower Board for which a sum of £10,390 has been provided. I hope, however, that the Board will make a practical approach to the problem. The problem of ensuring that supply of bodies from institutions is properly related to the manpower demand by the various sectors of the national economy is a very practical problem. It is all very nice to put these things down on paper but how are they going to end? The university graduate does not at the moment present any unemployment problems at all but the Grammar School and the primary school leavers are now a real problem to the nation, and we need immediate, bold and concerted solution. I do not know whether this problem is within the range of the Manpower Board. But between them, the Department of Labour and the Ministry of Education should find a solution. It is perhaps uncharitable and crude to say we want less paper work and more action. But I am afraid action is what the boy or girl in the street who is looking for a job wants. Let the

Manpower Board or the Department of Labour or the Ministry of Education provide the ideas and let the Government suggest to this Senate lines of action for approval. It is imperative that we must provide employment opportunities for the youths of the nation.

Teachers and Politics : One very powerful testimony to the effectiveness of the teachers of the last generation is the great height that has been attained by many of our sons and daughters who did not possess the benefit of university education. With only secondary school education or Higher Elementary qualification many of our sons of the last generation have risen to great heights. Even last generation's standard six qualification has got many to great positions, to which they have done justice.

As I look around the ranks of Federal Legislators, I find that thirty-five *per cent* of Members are teachers. This is a credit to our teachers of the last generation, namely, that those they taught are now at the helm of things and are steering the ship of State—and steering it indeed upon an even keel.

But are we not missing a great lesson here ? Our teachers of old must have been conscientious, devoted full time teachers, otherwise they could never have produced such excellent results. But what are we experiencing to-day ? Most of our headmasters and teachers in schools and colleges have completely neglected their duties and paid more attention to politics than anything else.

Last week, the colleges and schools reopened. How many of our Principals were there to receive the children with warm embrace and set them up in their second term ? They are all here in Parliament doing politics. How are we going to get on ? What is the future going to be like ? If we examine the results of the work of secondary school leavers to-day we find that the majority of them are an apology. The teachers and lecturers of this generation spend fifty *per cent* of their time in active politics and another twenty-five *per cent* on thinking and writing political figures and jargon. They turn up in the classrooms tired and faded and hopelessly try, in the remaining twenty-five *per cent* of the time to produce good results.

Sir, never have persons to whose care the welfare of the children of a nation is committed acted more irresponsibly. I am aware of the

extreme gravity of the words I use. The situation is grave. The various governments of the Federation are spending enormous amounts on education. It is unfair that because of their major pre-occupation with politics some teachers should cause this money to be spent in vain. If they are going to teach, let them stick to teaching and if they want to do politics, let them stick to politics.

Ministry of Establishment : I am happy to hear that Nigerians are gradually but completely taking over all policy and high level posts in the Federal Civil Service. This is the point of time to ensure that the Federal Civil Service reflects and promotes the unity of the whole Federation. There are many ways of doing this. We could for instance, work out very carefully the proportion in which each of the Regions and the Federal Territory should be represented in the Federal Civil Service.

We could, for example, say that for every 20 Northerners there should be 8 Easterners, 6 Westerners, and, at least 3 Mid-Westerners. But this would not, indeed, be a useful exercise. Certainly, it would not result in an efficient Federal Civil Service, and whether we like it or not the position where a Federal Service loses the pride of place in efficiency to a Regional Civil Service is a disgraceful position to the whole country.

I would rather urge that we consider very seriously a re-organisation of the civil services of the Federation—along the pattern of India where all the civil services can, as a routine draw upon the staff resources of each other as and when the needs arise. Why, for example, can there not be an exchange of Permanent Secretary level between a Federal Ministry and a Regional Ministry ? Why can this exchange not be at other levels also both in respect of professional and non-professional classes ? This kind of exchange may very well impart to the Regional officer a wider perspective and appreciation which would make him more sympathetic to difficulties at the Federal plane. There are similar advantages for the Federal officer who has the opportunity to operate for a time at the Regional level. Besides, this will provide the sort of confidence and mutual trust which is so very necessary if we are to effectively and quickly produce a truly united Nigeria.

[SENATOR ASEMOTA]

Another advantage is that this kind of arrangement enables a particular government to secure quickly the services of an officer who has displayed special aptitude for a special kind of work. I ask that some consideration be given to it. It will yield dividend in the end.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs : It is delightful to hear in the Speech from the Throne the refreshing news that Government proposes to open more Missions and Embassies abroad. This is very good, because we must always try to reflect the size of this great giant of Africa in any way we possibly can.

One appeal I would make right now is that just as we must be proud of the size and greatness of our country, we must also try to reflect in all we do the wonderful variety with which God has blessed us. We must try and reflect this variety in the pattern of our diplomatic representatives abroad, particularly at the ambassadorial level. In this connection, I cannot help stating the fact that the number of Mid-Westerners in this rank is very small indeed. I am sure that the hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Prime Minister will agree with me. We want more Mid-Westerners to be in this class of work.

Senator E. A. Lagunju : On a point of order, Standing Order No. 26 states that no Senator shall read his speech, but a Senator can refresh his memory. The Senator is reading his speech.

The President : You are quite right. The Senator can refresh his memory but he should not read.

Senator Asemota : Thank you very much, Sir. As a matter of fact I was not reading. My speech is so voluminous, and I speak so fast. So, I think if I refresh my memory that will help the Reporters.

Under the Ministry of Mines and Power I congratulate the Government for the stupendous work done at Escravos and Koko. It is simply glorious, and it is wonderful. Anybody who goes to the Escravos Bar will certainly feel that the money spent there is money well spent, and if one goes to Koko Port one cannot come out with any other impression than that the money spent there is also well spent.

But if Government has done a glorious work it must take advantage of it and reap its full benefits. Of what use is the Escravos to the Midwest if, with port facilities next door to us, we cannot utilise them to evacuate one of our most valuable exports? What is the purpose of the huge expenditure on the Escravos if, whereas it can give our youngmen employment we carry these employment facilities to other ports? The Mid-West has oil and gas at Ughelli. It has an evacuation port at Koko and Escravos. Yet, instead of evacuating through Escravos thereby giving our youth jobs, the oil is led underground to Port Harcourt where several job opportunities already exist.

I want to say it now and say it very forcefully that everyone interested in the well-being of this country must devise ways and means of dispersing industries to remote areas. Port Harcourt has got so many industries. Port Harcourt has got so many avenues of providing jobs for the people there, and I think that robbing the Mid-Westerners of this facility by evacuating their oil through Port Harcourt is not a sound arrangement at all. I do hope that Government will look into this and see that the Oil Company is advised to change its mind in this direction.

The next Department which I would like to go into is Geological Survey. I am glad to see some increase in the Estimates for this Department. I can now call on the Department to pursue vigorously the vital issue of discovering the mineral resources of the Region. Year in and year out we sing that Nigeria is blessed with abundant mineral wealth. When pressed for concrete data as to where, how much, and what quality, nobody is able to say.

We have a glass industry at Ughelli, but nobody has discovered it and said what type of glass this is. We have lignite at Asaba. It has not been investigated thoroughly. We have cement at Ukpilla, but nobody has taken the trouble to find out what sort of cement and how long it is going to last. We have diamond at Ewohinmi, but nobody has ever come back to say that we should investigate this to the bottom, and tell us what material use we can make of it.

No foreign investor will put down his money on the basis of vague and unspecified generalisation. So, I hope that our Minister

of Mines and Power who has been labouring himself very hard to go to Italy and other parts of the world to attract investors to come down and do some exploration work will bear this in mind and see that some of the explorers are posted to the Mid-West area so that they will be able to investigate the wealth that we have in that part of the Federation.

Now, I come to the Police. His Excellency in his Speech from the Throne said that arrangement was being made to expand the Police Force. This is welcome and we are all looking for progress in this direction, but I am feeling very strongly that the time has come for the Local Government Police in the West and in the North to be disbanded and taken over by the Inspector-General of Police. As we all know the efficiency of the Local Government Police in the North and West, is not comparable at all to the efficiency of the Federal Police.

I used to ask myself whether these people are really policemen or just policemen in name. They are, indeed, policemen in name, but are they Police in the discharge of their duties? I think they are simply there for political reasons, and the time has come when we must take a lead from the East.

Senator Salahu Fulani : On a point of order, I think the Senator is referring to the Mid-West policemen and not the Northern policemen. The Northern policemen are as efficient as the policemen in the Nigeria Police Force.

The President : That is not a point of order. That is a difference of opinion.

Senator Asemota : In any case, Mr President, I would rather accept that from experienced police officers. But what I am saying is that the present Local Government Police in the Western Region as a whole and in the Northern Region should be disbanded and taken over by the Inspector-General of Police so that some of the men there who have got the aptitude to learn and are good enough to be sent to training colleges should be trained and made very good use of.

The last item I would like to touch under Police is the orderlies that are given to Ministers and some other people in the Federation. I think Government should set up some machinery whereby the giving out of orderlies to Ministers should be limited to a certain class of

Ministers and other people in responsible positions that need them and not everybody who is made a Minister overnight. The first paraphernalia of office given to a newly appointed Minister is a Nigerian police orderly. This is a waste of man-power, Mr President, and a waste of public money.

If orderlies are limited to the Prime Minister, Regional Premiers, the Judges, the Solicitors-General, Attorneys-General, Ministers of Finance and Ministers of Labour, I think that will be justifiable. Why should we provide orderlies for all types of Ministers? What are their duties other than to open their cars for them to get in and close the cars when they get out? They do not need policemen when visiting their constituencies to give account of their stewardship. Honestly, Mr President, the provision of Police orderlies for a class of people is a waste of man-power and a waste of the revenue of this country. I do hope that Government will consider this and limit the issue of police orderlies. In all about 300 Policemen are doing this orderly job and this I consider far more than the country can conveniently afford to.

Finally, I am happy that Government is completing the Shagamu-Ijebu-Ode-Benin Road within this financial year. But we would like the Minister of Works and Surveys to be more categorical about this and give us an indication when this road will be actually completed.

I support the Appropriation Bill.

3.35 p.m.

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba : I rise to support the Second Reading of the 1963-64 Appropriation Bill moved by our able, straightforward and dynamic Minister of Finance, Chief the hon. Festus Okotie-Eboh. The finances of our Government are buoyant and sound in his hands.

It is also appropriate here to congratulate the Federal Government for all the achievements during the past year. When one reads through the 'Modernisation Budget' carefully, one soon realises that the Federal Government is alive to its responsibilities. I think we will not be asking too much from the Prime Minister if we appeal to him to crown "Omimi" as the *Sarkin Kudi* of the whole Federation; he is certainly the indispensable candidate for the post.

[SENATOR ALHAJI ABUBAKAR GARBA]

Now for the Budget, the Minister of Finance named it the 'Modernisation Budget' and others nicknamed it the Budget of Patriotism. The Minister further added that Nigeria is already on the march. Progress and modernisation are everywhere.

I crave the indulgence of the Chair so that I may not be ruled out of order for raising the following point. If we are true patriots, our State House should be modernised, it should be reconstructed in a typical Nigerian design, projecting Nigerian culture and befitting the dignity of Nigeria. I understand that the State House was built in 1896 by a European Architect for a European to live in. At that time, Mr President, no Englishman ever dreamt that an African would stay in that house so soon. If the Federal Government could spare £20,000 for the Dick Tiger-Fullmer fight in Nigeria, I do not see why it could not afford to spend a million pounds or more for our State House.

The difficulty in attracting external finance for our Six-Year Development Plan is, in my opinion, attributable to two main factors. First, both the Federal and the Regional Governments have adopted a policy of 'please do it for me'. We are from A to Z reluctant to make sacrifices and we do not fully patronise made in Nigeria goods, be it materials or personnel. We are too selfish and too regionally inclined in running our own affairs. Although we have chosen the Federal form of government, the more Regional Governments cooperate with the Federal Government, the more prosperous our country Nigeria will soon be. Thus decentralisation or duplication of some of our services, e.g., Broadcasting and Television Services, affects to a great extent, the economy of our country.

We do not speak with one voice, nor do we see eye to eye with each other, to say nothing of the waste of public funds. So let us pull together, let us give all that we can save for the success of our Plan. Let us build a new Nigeria in the name of our children and children's children. Let us double our effort and concentrate all our energies to the task of implementing the Plan. Let each one of us do a day's work commensurate to a day's pay. Let us show the world that we are determined to carry on with minimum external finance. God helps those who help themselves.

Mr President, it is my considered opinion that the second cause for the delay of external finance for our Plan is that our Governments have also adopted a policy of 'slow march'. Our National Council for Economic Planning should wake up. They should sit more frequently. Let them produce well prepared projects for our real friends overseas to see. Fortunately, the Federal Government has started executing our Six-Year Plan with vigour and is showing the world that we are really very serious. Let us exploit all available opportunities to show our plans before all sides, I repeat before all sides of the world. It is then and only then that the external finance will flow into Nigeria unceasingly. Another way of obtaining money is that our representatives at the United Nations Disarmament Conference should appeal to those nuclear powers to stop all nuclear tests and transfer the funds provided for the tests to under-developed countries, such as Nigeria.

Another way of saving time and money is that those engaged either by the Government or local authorities should be alive to their responsibilities. We ought to realise that we are no longer working for the whiteman. A penny corruptly obtained or a minute delinquently lost shows clearly our sheer unpatriotic attitude. Unless we change our attitude and try to have a proper sense of discharging our duties efficiently, quickly and selflessly, instead of intentionally delaying or shirking our duties and responsibilities, we may soon find ourselves incapable of running the affairs of our independent Nigeria.

May I come to the question of Defence. In this age which is full of suspicion, full of threats to assassinate others, full of people who have no confidence in ballot but bullet, and full of people who place might above right, the Government should be highly commended for strengthening our defence and security forces, whatever may be the cost. May I add that army cadet training should be compulsory in all secondary schools throughout the Federation.

It is said that ninety or ninety-five per cent of the population of Nigeria are engaged in agriculture. These peaceful hardworking countrymen feed and clothe the noisy and sometimes troublesome ten per cent of the town-dwellers who are having more than their share of modern amenities. Out of the total—

Senator Abdul Salami Yusufu : On a point of order, it seems a member is dividing the House.

The President : That is a good point of order. Will the Senator proceed.

Senator Abubakar Garba : Out of the total expenditure of about £58 million for this financial year, only a quarter of a million pounds is allocated to agriculture and research. This uneven distribution of amenities should not be continued. Something must be done, even if it means amending our Constitution.

The next point that I would like to touch on is publicity. To sell Nigeria abroad, I suggest that all Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates for Nigeria overseas should be well equipped with photographs of Nigerian Leaders, Nigerian Flags, newspapers, films, publications and anything which will publicise Nigeria. I also suggest that Information Officers of the Federal Ministry of Information should be posted to any country where we have an embassy.

My next point is about the question of unemployment. Unemployment makes many people face a dangerous and uncertain future and, above all, it is the root cause of lawlessness. But this should not drive some of our honest youths to commit crimes. To help the workers as well as to reduce unemployment, it will be good to provide more home industries which, when fully developed, would keep the cost of living down and absorb more people.

The Government should also do all it can to reduce the burden of rents, particularly in the Federal Territory of Lagos, by providing housing schemes which will improve the lot of the workers. These Federal Housing Estates should be built not only in Lagos, but in the major towns where large scale industries will be sited or have already been established.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all the people in the Western Region for the first time that an official visit has been made by our Head of State—the Rt. hon. Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, the Governor-General of the Federation. If I could remember well, our Governor-General has been on tour of the North, not once, and has also been to the East, but circumstances prevented His Excellency from meeting his people in the West. Now, they have their chance, and I wish them everlasting peace and tranquility.

Senator Chief P. C. Ndu : I have to congratulate the Minister of Finance on introducing this Bill. It is non-contentious and quite comprehensive in its nature. I want to make a few observations. The first is that the Federal Government should take over some of the Trunk Roads "B" so as to be able to complete the tarring of the important road connecting the Eastern Region and the Northern Region. The construction of this road stops at Aliade which is situated in Oturkpo Division in Benue Province. The road remains only about 199 miles to connect the Eastern Region and the Northern Region. I would also like the Federal Government to construct or tar the road starting from mile nine corner *via* Oghe and Owa in Eziagu district in Udi Division to Umulokpa in Nsukka Division. This, of course, will help the farmers in that part of the country to collect some of their cash crops and palm produce more easily than they now do under the dilapidated condition of the road, especially during the rainy season. There is one other road at the branch of Onitsha to Udi town which leads straight from Udi Divisional Office to Agbani in Nkanu district in Udi Division. The road is so bad that most of the farmers there do not know how to go about the evacuation of their produce. In fact if that road is tarred, a lot of the money now being looked for could become available. Of course, it will also help to reduce unemployment.

That is not all. I also want the Federal Government to construct an overhead bridge just between Sir Ahmadu Bello Street in Jos and Jos main market. The congestion that the pedestrians suffer there is so much that one finds it very difficult to cross the road without the risk of loss of life. There is another one in the Eastern Region. I would like the Federal Government to construct another overhead bridge between the timber market and the Ogbete main market.

The President : I do not want to interrupt the Senator. You are defending, not even regional, but urban district councils. The one in Jos is certainly a District Council road, the one in Enugu is Enugu District Council road. It is not even regional. It is worse than that. You are out of order.

Senator Chief Ndu : The point of order is well taken.

[SENATOR CHIEF NDU]

My next point is that I would like the Federal Government to take over the Judiciary. The Judiciary controls the activities of a nation, so I would like the Judicial Department to be transferred from a Regional to a Federal subject. The next point also is the question of education. We have now five universities, and I would like the Federal Government to take over education and federalize it so that we may have uniform standards of education in these five universities.

Now I come to the question of Police. A lot has been said on Police activities. I wish to congratulate the Ministry in charge of police on the plan to enlarge the Police Force. I would, at the same time, want the Federal Government to create a police post at Eziagu in Udi Division. There was a case in which a safe was broken and a lot of money was stolen. If there were a police post there, I believe that those thieves could have been arrested. The inhabitants there are about 120,000. If this is done, I believe that the thieves who have been breaking safes and committing all sorts of crimes and havocs would go away from that area.

The next point which I want to make is about the Governor-General who has been touring all parts of Nigeria. This time he is touring the Western Region, and wherever he goes we hear much of him. I congratulate the Governor-General, and the Federal Government which, of course, arranged the tour.

With these remarks, I beg to support the Appropriation Bill.

Senator S. Eytayo : I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Finance, Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh, on the able way in which he presented the Bill this morning. Most of the Senators who have spoken have covered a lot of grounds and, therefore, I do not want to repeat what they have said. But for the sake of emphasis, I want to say something about education because it is there that I am particularly interested.

What I like to say about education is by way of prayers to the Federal Government. The last speaker had spoken on the advisability of the Federal Government taking up education as a whole, and I am praying the Government

too that whenever the time comes for the revision of the Constitution, effort should be made to put education on the Exclusive List and not to be placed again on the Concurrent List. Wherever you go in the Regions to-day, if you study their Budget, the amount of money spent on education, you will find, is perhaps the largest vote in all their expenditure. One other reason why, personally, I like that education should be put on the Exclusive List is to make the standards the same. If we go into all the Regions to-day and compare the standard of education, as far as primary education is concerned, with what is obtaining in the Federal Territory of Lagos to-day, if we do not want to deceive ourselves, we shall find that the standard in the primary schools of the Federal Territory is far superior to the standard in the Regions. Therefore, for the same standards to be maintained throughout the Federation, education must be put in the Exclusive.

My next point is on transport. I congratulate the Government on the extension of the railway from the Northern Region to Gombe. At the same time, I am urging the Federal Government that they should bear in mind that there are other places in the Western and Eastern Regions where the line should be extended and, therefore, whenever the time comes, I am praying the Government to put this into consideration.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Senator H. N. Udoh : I speak on Agriculture. Nigeria, and the Eastern Region in particular, if I am not taking too much to myself, is an agricultural area. A sum of £287,050 is voted for Research. We say this several times that research in agriculture is always in theory. We want a practical thing. Anywhere you go you see experimental garden, experimental office. When will the result of the experiments be published? Now, we have, if you watch the *Gazette*, many young men who have been sent to Umuahia Agricultural School to be trained and some have already been appointed. Personally, I fail to see the practical work that they have done. Some Agricultural Assistants, instead of going to the farm with the labourers to illustrate to them what they have learnt in the agricultural schools, only remain in the offices. The only thing they do is to give instructions to the labourers, asking them to go into the nurseries

and give people who want some seedlings—“Give them so many cocoa seedlings, give them so many palm seedlings”—and there it ends. I have once spoken very sharply to one of the Agricultural Assistants. I asked him, “Do you know that your work is not office work?”

It is unfortunate that the Minister who is responsible for this is not here to hear our complaints and observations on certain things. We are the people on the spot and not the Ministers, and we are to say what we observe will help the Ministry and the country as a whole.

We want local things to be manufactured. The Minister of Finance has put up a statement indirectly compelling us to like home made goods. But on the other hand, some of the things manufactured locally at times appears to be dearer than the imported ones. For example, there was a time at Aba when Nkalagu cement was costing more than Portland cement because the demand for it was too high. Really what the Minister of Finance is after is a very good and prosperous idea. But it will serve no useful purpose if we pay more for our own stuff than those imported by the people who leave their homes for this country in order to enrich themselves here. If it would be possible to make our local manufactures cheaper, sure enough many people will prefer them to imported ones.

The Minister of Finance should be congratulated. I remember last year when the issue of saving was debated at length in this Senate. It is a well-known saying that Heaven helps those who help themselves. We have been going to various friendly countries for loans. But we can do something about it. Some Senators told him when he was with us here (as he is here with us now) that he should not keep talking to us a handful of people in this place that we should save, but that this request for savings should be extended to the rural areas through publications and film shows. There are many people who cannot read papers because they are not educated. Some can read but they cannot afford to buy them. But such people can see the films and will understand what they are required to do. So, we suggested that some practical demonstration should be made. Happily enough, he is following this, as I can see the sign in various post offices and postal agencies in the rural

areas. But we still need to go a bit deeper into the rural areas where many people are backward.

We are indeed fortunate that we have postal agencies in some areas. The Minister of Communications should encourage some of the postal agencies to start savings with a limited amount of money. Some of the postal agencies are not having strong safes. We all know that breaking of safes is very rampant, particularly in the rural areas nowadays.

If our people are shown what to do, they will be able to learn more about savings. From my own experience, I have observed that it is not only the well-to-do people who can save. I remember that in one of the Regions it is a rule that bachelors should pay more taxes because they use money without a second thought. If we watch palm-wine houses in the evening we will find that those who claim to be poor spend more recklessly. They can be told that it will pay them better to save for tomorrow, that they will not be physically strong all the days of their lives, and that as they are now irresponsible a day will come when they will need money but will not find it. Such campaigns will help us. Our country, Nigeria, is flowing with wealth, although it has not been well tapped yet.

I feel that education in this country is deteriorating every day because our children lack morals. It seems that moral instruction is wholly knocked off from the time-table. Nobody thinks about that.

While on this point, I would like to say that people who should be appointed as members of the various boards must be people with good character, people who are well-meaning. The only way to get them is by studying their character. It is said that manners maketh a man and woman. It is not only literary attainment that matters. The one thing that is responsible for the falling standards of morals is that when children pass standard six they are given certificates as having passed that standard. That is the beginning. But in these certificates there is no column for character. The children are conscious of this and that is why they do not care at all. They do not care about how they move about. If there is a column in the certificate to be filled by the Headmaster of the last school they attended, they will think twice.

[SENATOR UDOH]

I am supporting those who are pressing that education should be made a Federal subject. At the moment, some children in some areas of this country who passed standard six cannot spell their names. When they are spoken to in English which is the common language for us all, they answer in the vernacular.

To get on in literary attainment and in any branch of study it is necessary that one should be able to speak the English language. If one does not understand English one will not be able to grasp and understand any other subject, and one will not even be able to write. All these considerations are most of the things that make our people go backward, and I begin to wonder where our education is leading us. I suggest that everybody who is a friend of Nigeria should start now to think very seriously about this matter.

I now come to the question of providing transport facilities. Some parts of this country are neglected because of ignorance, because the people at the helm of affairs fail to realise that beautiful things often have queer homes.

In some parts of this country people who produce cocoa, palm produce, oil beans and so on do not have good means of transporting their produce. This mostly occurs in the Delta areas and in the Creeks. And as will be seen from any of the publications of the Inland Waterways Department, when the people of the area petition or send a delegation and the waterway is cleared, that is the end of everything. The people may make use of the waterway on one or two occasions before it gets blocked again, and when the matter is re-reported the Ministry concerned says there is no fund. In the course of two or three years the waterways are completely blocked up and these people are cut off from communication with the rest of the country.

Up to the Cross River, I think in Ogoja Province, there are certain times of the year when the people cannot get out of their areas; a canoe of two passengers cannot even go across. These are main problems which the people ask the Government to consider seriously. When we say that Ministers should travel far and wide to see things for themselves it does not mean, as some people are wont to say, that we are jealous of them. We are only doing so because of our belief that it is better for one to see things for oneself than to rely on what one hears.

My next point is about Veterinary Research. It is an incontrovertible truth that apart from Northern Nigeria there is no place in the South where there is a Federal establishment of this nature, with the sole exception, of course, of the E.N.D.C.' animal research unit at Obudu.

Rinderpest is a dreadful and rampant disease that causes the death of so many of our livestock. There was a time when I personally had to rear chickens. I started with over one hundred of them but within two weeks of rearing them I could not count on five. The result of the researches being conducted should be widely publicised so that people might get to know where the shoe pinches and to know how to get about a cure for the constant death of their livestock.

I beg to support.

The Minister of Finance: As usual, Senators have shown keen interest in the affairs of the nation, and I think that the reports which have gone out of this House during this Session have shown quite vividly that Senators are getting maturer day by day. (*Applause*). And some of my Colleagues who have come into this House within the last week have come to tell me that I must be careful when I am going to the Senate, otherwise I will be seriously castigated.

A Senator: I should like to know if the Minister is replying to points that had been raised in the course of the debate.

The Minister of Finance: That is what I am trying to do, and I wish really to crave your indulgence because since morning I have been doing quite a lot of work in the Lower House, and I still have an important Resolution there. The fact that I am replying now does not stop Senators from speaking again, but I shall take leave of you. My Colleague will be present and if there are other points he will reply. I cannot split myself.

As I was saying they have warned me that Senators have been very critical these few days, and I think that is to get us on our toes. It is a very good thing, because there is no use thinking that Senators can treat every Bill that comes into this House with levity and get it across.

Once again, I want to thank Senators for the kind things they said about the Government, the Prime Minister, and my humble self. We

are trying to serve and, as I said in another place, it is he that works that makes mistakes, but if one makes mistakes and is corrected one should try to take corrections and try to do things the right way. Some of the criticisms that had been levelled in the past have been taken into consideration, and that is why the last Senator who spoke mentioned that some of the things we promised to look into have come to fruition this year. I can only assure Senators that we do not treat their criticisms with bias or with levity because we know they are made in good faith, and it is our duty to study them and try to make good for the future.

I am personally grateful for the kind things said about me, especially by Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba who crowned me *Sarkin Kudi* of the Federation. That appellation had been given to me in several places in the Northern Region in the past, and now that it is on record I only hope that when I retire I shall be able to earn it, too, in my private life.

Senators have mentioned many points which I think are of vital importance. If I may start from the last point, it seems that Senators are federalised. And Senators did not just make this point but substantiated same with very good reasons, and I think, even you, Mr President, will agree that the standard of education has been lowered.

People complained of the last result of the West African School Certificate. When the foundation of a super-structure is weak the super-structure itself cannot stand, and that is why I agree with Senators that our present education policy needs to be re-examined.

I happened, with President, to be in the Western House of Assembly when the Free Primary Education Bill was introduced, and you, Mr President, will remember that we were critical of it, but we were looked down upon then as the voice of the Opposition. But to-day some of the points which were made then are becoming truer and truer, and even Senators are now reiterating them. It is essential that parents should struggle to send their children to a proper elementary school to lay the foundation, so that the children do not have automatic promotion in education, and so that the children do not speak vernacular when you speak English to them.

Of course, we hate foreign things but at the moment, we have not accepted any other Nigerian language and therefore our education ought to be properly built up from the beginning. But our Constitution is there and we cannot by-pass it. Whether we like it or not, primary education, and secondary education even to some extent, is a matter for the Regional Governments and the finances of the Government are divided among the Regional Governments in accordance with their respective responsibilities.

If the Federal Government were to venture to abolish free primary education tomorrow and ask parents to pay fees, Senators would be surprised at the amount of hue and cry that would be raised. Many parents do not realise what it means as yet. That being the case, we cannot under the present constitutional set up take from the Regional Government their responsibilities in the field of education. Senators will, however, agree that we are doing quite a lot. We give subventions to universities, we are trying to build inter-Regional secondary schools, and if we have the opportunities, we shall give grants to Regional schools that are doing well. But in all its ramifications it is impossible to take that responsibility at this stage.

It may well be that when we become a Republic—and here I must seize this opportunity to say this, the Prime Minister regrets very much that he is unable to come here and make this important announcement that by October this year, this country will become a Republic. (*Applause*). The statement was made by Alhaji the Rt. hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, the Prime Minister of the Federation this morning in the Lower House and it was followed by another statement which he instructed me to give to the Senate, that there will be a Parliamentary Delegation this year and we have asked the Lower House to look into it. I think Senators will make their claims to be included in the delegation. Are Senators going to do that?

Several Senators : Aye, aye.

The Minister of Finance : Well, Mr President, we are in your hands.

A Senator : I hope the Minister of Finance will not forget us.

The Minister of Finance : Who can forget Senators and get away with it ?

Senator Udoh also made a plea for industrialisation and harped on one important note which, fortunately, I have been watching carefully for some time. The purpose of protecting Nigerian industry is to enable Nigerians to buy their own home made products at reasonable prices, but if certain people are going to use Government protection for protecting their own interest and making quick profits for themselves by selling Nigerian products at higher rates, then the Government must consider withdrawing the subsidy or concession that is granted to such industry. I am particularly worried about the price of cement in this country.

Senators know that in economics the price of any commodity is dependent on the law of supply and demand. People are building more houses in the country and we definitely need more cement for that purpose, but we do not want more cement to be imported. But the people who sell cement at Nkalagu at inflated prices are the middlemen, those who buy the cement secondhand. It is not the factory that is responsible. The trouble is that the production of cement to-day is not enough in Nigeria. We want more cement factories to be established so that we may have more cement on the market. I can assure Senators that I have always watched the trend of events and have spoken to the firms or factories that if any one takes advantage of Government protection to cheat the public, the Government will withdraw its protection from such industry.

Senator Asemota spoke about increased wages to be matched by increased productivity. I can only thank him for that. I do not know if Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku, the trade unionist has spoken on this issue. I am sure he will have some hard words to say. The fact is that whenever we talk of workers in this country, people forget that the number of workers is nothing compared with the number of peasants, the farmers and the ordinary man. The number of workers is almost negligible. If one goes to some parts of Nigeria and talks about the working class, particularly now that the U.A.C., John Holt, and other firms are closing down, one will not be understood. In a country of about forty-five million people, I do not think there are up to five million

workers and if we increase wages without productivity, it will affect everybody. The moment we announce an increase in wages, the person who sells *gari*, the driver who carries the foodstuffs in his lorry, in fact, everybody connected with buying and selling will like to increase the price of everything, and the people who do not benefit from the increased wages will suffer.

Let us take the question of cement. If we increase the wages of the people in the cement factory everywhere in the country with a view to their increasing or doubling the quantity of cement that they produce, naturally everybody will benefit from it because there will be no black marketing on cement again (or shall I say white marketing), but then we have got to look at the other side of the picture.

I am grateful to Senator Asemota but I must confess that this is a very difficult point because workers control public opinion to a certain degree and when one takes such a decision, one has got to be very careful. I want to make it clear that we are not against increased wages but what we say is that Nigerians should learn to do a good day's work for a good day's pay. That is the main thing. People who have travelled to other parts of the world will definitely agree with me that we must give credit to the white people that they can really work. If they accept to do a piece of job for a certain amount of money, they will really do a job commensurate with the amount they are going to receive. But our people, if they are boys, will keep on telephoning their girl friends, and if they are girls, will keep on telephoning their boy friends and wasting time in the office. Is that not so ?

Several Senators : It is so.

The Minister of Finance : We only feel that our people should try to do some good piece of work. If they work well and produce more, they will certainly get more money.

Weights and Measures : I think the Minister of Commerce and Industry will look into the complaints which the Senator has made. As a matter of fact, we do not want people to be cheated.

Senator Olamijulo spoke about agriculture and the banning of imported drinks. Earlier on, Senator Lagunju had spoken about agriculture and subsidy to be given to Regional Governments. I agree with the two Senators

but I want to say that we have already done so. There is provision in the Development Programme to subsidise agriculture and we are doing even much more than that, we give grants also because the whole of our economy hitherto is agricultural and it is only now that we are trying to transform it into an industrialised economy. It should be realised, however, by Senators that agriculture is a Regional subject. It is again not our responsibility but in view of the development that we envisage, we should help the Regional Government as we have done in the matter of Education in order to let them improve their agriculture because it is the main thing that is earning us foreign currency and giving us our foreign reserve.

Senators have also spoken about our defence and security. I think that all the points made are well taken, and as I said earlier on, we do not want to test a hydrogen bomb or destroy lives, but it is important that Nigeria, for her size in Africa, should be able to guard her frontiers. That is very essential. We do not want to wake up one morning to learn that somebody's army has marched into Nigeria and then we begin to run for our dear lives. At the same time, we do not want the Government to be subverted; we do not want people who have no patriotic minds to plan to overthrow constituted authority. It is, therefore, essential, that Government must have the necessary defence. We do not want to lead Africa by shooting antiquated guns and so on.

If countries in Africa want to look up to us for leadership, they must be convinced that we are strong enough to protect them. After all, neither Russia nor America is the largest country in the world. There is China. Every sixth person in the world is a Chinese. China has a population of about 750 million people but nobody talks about it. Rather, people talk of and fear Khrushchev and Kennedy because of the strength of their respective countries. We are not trying to match their strength but we want to be able to speak in Africa and when we speak, we should speak authoritatively. We do not want somebody to describe us when we speak as "big for nothing people". That is why we feel that we must have the necessary weapons at our command for our defence; so that we might be able, for security purposes, to defend ourselves.

Senator Chief P. C. Ndu : On a point of order, I have observed that when the Minister made reference to some of the Senators who have made good speeches, he called them by name. But I was the first to say something on this Bill.

The President : Order. We are no school children. If the Minister does not mention the points made by Senator Ndu, it simply means that his points are very good. Frankly, nobody when replying to speeches, will really reply to what everybody has said. We do not want to behave like children by saying "Jack has been mentioned but I have not been mentioned."

In any case, the Minister has not finished his speech. The Minister said he was going to begin to answer from the bottom to the top. I think that is what he said and if he starts from the bottom, definitely Senator Ndu will be at the top.

Senator Chief Ndu : I am speaking on the question of Education. The Minister has passed that point and he only said in passing that a Senator said such and such. Does it mean that the Minister does not know my name?

The President : Must the Minister call the Senator by name?

Senator Chief Ndu : Yes, I was the first to speak on the subject.

The President : Order. I am saying that the Minister could answer to the speeches made without referring to anybody by name, but if he likes, he could refer to some Senators by name and in other cases, he could merely answer the points made by saying that somebody raised a point and so on. The Minister is quite in order to use the passive voice and not mention anybody's name. Why is the Senator interested that his name must be mentioned?

The Minister of Finance : I am very grateful to you, Mr President, for your ruling. I will mention Senator Chief Ndu by name.

Mr President, Senator Chief Ndu made a wonderful and brilliant speech this morning and all the points he made are well taken and will be considered by the Government. (Laughter).

[MINISTER OF FINANCE]

I want it to be understood that I meant no offence by not referring to some Senators by name. In fact, I was not here when Senator Chief Ndu made his speech.

The President : What Senator Chief Ndu said was that he would like the Federal Government to build an overhead bridge in the Timber Market at Ogbete in Enugu, and I ruled him out of order.

The Minister of Finance : Thank you very much, Mr President. Some Senators also spoke on the question of poor prices of our products. I also made the point in my "Modernisation" Budget that it is one of those things that really make us feel that we must industrialise. Why, Mr President, must we continue to sell our produce instead of making use of them here and turning them to finished products? If one goes to the Northern Region, and visits the Kaduna Textile Mills, one will be surprised. Many people did not know that we can take our own cotton from the farm to the Mill and produce baft. We have even gone farther than that. Now that textile factories have been set up in the Eastern Region, we shall produce here in Nigeria beautiful prints and other things which our women like very much.

Senator Chief (Mrs) Wuraola A. Esan : And men too.

The Minister of Finance : Yes, and men. It cuts both ways. I quite agree that we are helpless in this regard but there is nothing that we can do at the moment.

We talk about a Common Market for Africa and about the European Economic Community otherwise known as the Common Market.

The answer to some of our problems will definitely be the establishment of a Common Market for Africa where we can be sufficiently strong sometimes to hold back our produce. Nobody buys our produce from us because he likes our face—it is because he wants to make use of them. And as I have said to some of those concerned in international conferences, unless they try to cut down their profits and stop passing their expenses on to us, we shall have to think twice. They happen at the moment to have many advantages over us. They buy one ton of cocoa maybe for £120 and from that ton, they can produce chocolate and

make a profit of 100 per cent to 200 per cent. People make and sell razor blades and from the profits they become millionaires and yet we continue to sell our groundnuts and our produce to them. It is a problem that will not be there for ever and by the Grace of God we hope to surmount it at no distant future.

Senator Olamijulo suggested that we should ban the importation of drinks and then drink *apeteshi*, *burukutu* or illicit gin. It is a pity that a Motion that was filed in the Lower House on this matter was not moved because we could not reach it. I was to reply to it and I was actually going to make a real statement about it. I am not just sitting idle about the legalisation of our illicit gin but we cannot legalise the present stuff we have because it is not good for human consumption.

At the same time the Government cannot license distilleries in every hamlet and village. Where shall we get the customs officers to check them? Senators know that we earn quite a lot of revenue from whisky and gin, and this is because we can control them. Even, now, we are much worried about smuggling. If we are asked to license everybody distilling gin in the country, how are we going to get the revenue from it? In consequence we are trying to bring about an Amendment to the present law and enact a Regulation that will enable people to fulfil the conditions that are required for granting licences to people who want to establish distilleries. When this is done people will be able to report to the Police where they have reason to believe that certain people are still distilling illicit gin.

Finally, I want to join forces with those who have advocated that Nigerians must be proud of her home made products. The mark "Made in Nigeria" will make us proud. I remember, when I was working with the Bata Shoe Company, we had instructions to the effect that no employee of the Bata Shoe Company must wear shoes produced by any other factory. We were not allowed to put on shoes made by Lennards or any other Firm. I think we should keep this point to ourselves that when we are sufficiently industrialised in this country we should see to it that we wear our own clothes, travel in our own cars, if we can produce one. If one goes to Italy one finds that they all, men and women, go about in *Fiat*. There are no *Rolls-Royce*, because they know what it means.

The people are quite conscious that by riding in *Fiats* the money comes back into their own pocket. But what do we find here? During the groundnut season in Nigeria instead of our people going to buy groundnut from the market they go to the Kingsway and buy groundnut and coconut. Honestly, let Senators go there and see. These boys and girls prefer to go to the Kingsway to buy groundnut and oranges whereas these things are being sold around the streets by our own children. We only want to play big by going to the Kingsway and getting the paper-bags from them. That does not mean anything. I am not campaigning against the Kingsway Stores. Let them sell by all means, but I think that at times our people are guilty of inferiority complex. They want people to think that because they are big they must go to Kingsway Stores to buy something, or because they are rich they must ride in *Rolls-Royce, Buick*, as against any small car.

I think that at this stage we must try to inculcate in the minds of our people that it is better to patronise Nigerian industries and products by making use of them and by being proud of them. If one goes to any factory in England, as the President himself knows, they tell one it is the biggest factory in the world. If one sees a German take a bicycle it is the best bicycle in the world.

At one time I was in Germany, and I went to visit a factory, and they took me to a conference table. The Managing Director of the Company told me that it was the biggest conference table in Europe. Can one imagine that? So, I asked him how he knew that and whether he had been to all the conferences of all companies operating in Europe. He replied that they just knew that fact.

People must take pride in their own things and praise their own things. By praising them and by making use of them other people will follow suit and know that one is proud of one's country. What is Nigeria without the people, industry, culture, and all the things which are dear to us? So, I agree with Senators that we ought to be proud of our own "Made in Nigeria" products. We should make use of them, patronise them, so that other people may follow suit.

Thank you very much.

Senator Chief (Mrs) Wuraola A. Esan : I thank you, Mr President, for calling on me to speak. By this you are telling the other Senators that I am higher than they are.

It is a pity that you, Mr President, have allowed the Minister of Finance to wind up, because some of the things which need explanation have been explained away. Yet, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Finance on this point. He has brought before us not only the "Modernisation Budget", he has also been frank to tell us that we are spending much more than we ought to.

He told us that the increase in our recurrent expenditure is becoming a problem. He told us what efforts he has been making in order to combat this evil. I would like to suggest also that he should exploit all the available avenues in order to cut down some of the expenditure now so that the Development Programme may be carried out as rapidly as everyone of us wishes.

Many Senators have made their suggestions that one pound here, two pounds there could be cut off from each Ministry in order that we may be able to save a bit for our development.

The Minister of Finance also said something about savings, selling of bonds, and such things. It is good to tell our people to save, but our earning capacity is very low. How many people earn sufficiently for their daily bread, and then to save? In order to encourage people to save we must increase our earning power, and I consider that sufficient effort is not being made to encourage people to earn more than they are earning now.

Trade union organisations in Nigeria, though they advocate increase in wages, do not try to sit down and solve the problem of unemployment. They think that should be left to the Government which must of necessity create more industries. Industries are very welcome, but we have certain industries in this country already. How many of them are paying their way? When people do not earn sufficiently how could they spend. These trade union organisations should get together and tell us what best to do in respect of the system being used in other well developed countries. Hours of work may be cut down so that many people will be employed on shift basis and several hands can be employed.

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Of course, these workers will earn less, because if they have to work by the hour more people will be engaged on these jobs. No one will sit down for nothing as is the case now.

The present attitude of trade unionists who demand wage increases will make few people earn more, less people find employment, and more people go in want of even their daily bread. I think Government should try and appoint a council to sit down with the trade union organisation officers to find ways and means of helping one another in getting employment for more people. It will be better for this country if this can be done.

On the question of petty trading, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, we have been told several times that retail trade should be left to the petty traders and wholesale to the big stores. But that has been the only promise and has up till now not been fulfilled.

One finds all these big stores sending their vans and lorries to the villages to retail their goods. I would like to say that 90 per cent of people earning something, however little, in this country, apart from the farmers, are petty traders, and they deal on imported goods. 50 per cent of this 90 per cent are women, and they are supposed to pay tax on money they do not earn. Why should this be so? It is because care has not been taken to see that the wholesale dealers are not at the same time retail dealers. These people sell their wares or goods to women petty traders at certain prices. These women, of course, must add their own gain to the prices they are going to sell. But when they go to the villages to sell they find their wholesale dealers, their customers, at the villages selling at the prices which they could not sell because they must put a little bit over and above what they bought the goods. When they find these people retailing, must of necessity cut down their prices, and it is all labour lost.

I think if we have experts in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, these experts should sit down and find ways and means of giving advice to these petty traders in order that they may do their retail trading profitably and so stop these wholesale dealers from going to compete with these poor women.

On Education I am one of those who agree that it should be on the Exclusive List in the Federation.

We say that we want Free Primary Education in Nigeria. It is good. But I think that perhaps at this stage, we do not require the Government to give us things as free as they are doing now. I can only say that the Government is making parents to be lazy, they do not take care of their children. Parents think that children who are to go to secondary grammar schools are the children they must have particular interest in. They do not start right from the time the children go to the elementary school to take any interest in them. The reason is that the money being spent on the children does not come from their pocket and that is why they do not take interest in their children. They think that when the Government provides anything, they must of necessity follow that provision to the end—that is that the Government must see that their children leave school in time and go home to attend to their home work. They also think that the Government should make their children listen to teachers in class-rooms and the parents in effect want the Government to whip those teachers to do their work efficiently.

If parents do co-operate with the Government of the Region that gives free primary education to their children, we will get better results. I am a teacher and a proprietor of a school, and I know what we are suffering now. It is not the teachers that are neglecting their duties, it is the parents that do not co-operate with the teachers. They send their children to school any how, under any condition, no food in the morning, their appearance is very bad and they expect the teachers to go to the class-rooms with them. Under such conditions the parents want the teachers to continue to do their work efficiently.

Teachers are not allowed to flog or to send these children out. We cannot start our education at the university level; we must start at the elementary level. When our children are in the elementary schools, we should teach them how to behave, how to wash their clothes, so that when they go to grammar schools and universities, they will behave very well and excellent result will come forth.

If we make education a Federal subject, there will be proper planning, our education needs re-planning and thorough modernisation, today parents are not taking good care of their children's education at all.

Another aspect of our education that is wrong is not only the training in school, but the moral education outside. Men and women should be taught that whatever job they are doing is more honourable than sitting down and doing nothing. There are so many lazy men who could earn at least—

Several Senators : There are lazy women too.

Senator Chief (Mrs) Esan : When I say men, I am using it as a common gender—I mean both men and women who sit down at home doing nothing instead of getting a bit of cloth to sew or a bit of wood to carve something out of. By so doing, they will earn their living. They have the talent to do something, but they will not use it. They are waiting for the Government to employ them—but Government cannot employ everybody. That is why we should re-orientate our educational system.

I would now talk about adult education. There are so many women and men who want to learn, so I do not think that education should stop at a certain age. Anybody living should be able to learn something until he or she dies. Therefore, Government should pursue adult education. Adult education should not be aimed at merely making the women traders to be able to sign their names and read a bit. They should be taught something worthwhile.

In a few years to come, I do not think that these petty traders will even be able to sell as much as they are doing now. I remember when I was going to school (and I will take Ibadan as an example), the women traders could not go to the stores to buy things. They would stand outside and send somebody to buy pieces of cloths for them because they were afraid to go in. People who had the courage to go in sold at a higher profit. Now everybody can go to shops to buy whatever he or she likes. In future years, the petty traders will get less to sell because many would be educated and nobody would want to buy things from the petty traders. They would prefer to go to the shops to buy everything they require. As a result of this, these petty traders should be taught to do something besides selling their wares. Provision should be made for them.

One Senator spoke about getting experts to research into our mineral resources. We want development. Our past masters did not research into these mineral resources. Now that

we are ruling ourselves, we should look for experts from Russia, Germany, France to come and help us research into our mineral resources. By so doing, we can get the money needed urgently for our development. Taxation is good, and asking people to save is laudable indeed. But do not forget what I said earlier, that not many people earn sufficient money for their living, how much less to save.

Another point that I would like to talk about is our habit of wastefulness. Really, if we say that we have not much money in this country, people in a country like China where the population is so tremendous, will tell us that we are rich but that we waste quite a lot. I do not see the reason why we should be wearing costly clothes and change them every day. I do realise that we should not go naked, but we are buying too many clothes, and that is a waste.

A Senator : Women are buying more clothes than they can afford.

Senator Chief (Mrs) Esan : I do not say men. I say we, all of us—men and women.

A Senator : Women are the worst offenders.

Senator Chief (Mrs) Esan : Men are the worst offenders. It is not women alone. Do not let us joke about this thing. I would say, seriously, that there are some of us who are trying now to modernise our views. We should follow what other nations are doing in order to get money to develop their countries. Women are changing their views about *Aso Ebi* : they now buy less of them. Scarcely can you see our women buying *Aso Ebi*. But I think that men should help us women. To speak the truth, even if women are extravagant at all, the fault lies at the feet of men.

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : It is the fault of women.

Senator E. A. Lagunju : On a point of order, Senator Asemota should address the Chair.

The President : The order is well taken. Senator Asemota should address me.

Senator Chief (Mrs) Esan : One Senator mentioned something about the exchange of officers. To me this is a welcome idea. If we exchange officers from one place to another, it

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will certainly give them much experience and would enable them to know things about every part of Nigeria. For instance, we could exchange officers from the East with those from the West and those from the North with those from the Federal Territory. When I say officers, I mean the permanent executives. This will make for efficiency and augur well for the desired unity that we have been talking about. This will as well put them in a position to give the Ministers expert advice, because Ministers cannot claim to be experts because they are never steady in a place, whereas these permanent officers are steady and can only leave the office at old age. Therefore, if we exchange officers from one Region to another, it will certainly enhance the efficiency of the public service and also will ensure the unity of Nigeria.

With regard to the question of the Army and the Police, I do not think that the officers in the Police Force are very well taken care of. The ordinary people in the town who see these policemen here and there will confirm the opinion that the present police officers are not well cared for. I do not think anybody who has sufficient money to live upon and sufficient to provide for emergencies and sickness would like to go in the streets while it is raining to stop lorries and do things not commendable. Probably some people would say that they are working for the nation. Instead of expanding the police, the existing ones should be properly taken care of. The Government should give them more pay and improve their conditions of service. It is not good when people who have not got the benefit of furthering their education enter the Force, they are badly cared for. The Government should listen to the advice of the common people because sometimes common things are not so common. I do not see any reason why the Government should ignore the advice of certain Council Reports. These days those who are regarded as fools sometimes turn out to be wise.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Senator J. K. Nzerem : I do not intend to make a long speech, but I will just touch a few points which I think are essential. I would like to talk about the salary structure of this country. Our present salary structure which is a vestige of our colonial days, is very unrealistic. A system which gives a School

Certificate boy £174 *per annum* and the so-called Senior Civil Servant £740 *per annum* to start with, cannot be defended. I quite realise that those so-called Senior Civil Servants (some of them) have university degrees and some of them perhaps have worked for a long time. It appears to me to be so indefensible that one man should get so little and another very much. This leads to the question of stealing. I cannot imagine one man getting a salary of £4,000 *per annum* and another man stops at £300 *per annum*! I am not advocating—I do not want to be misquoted—I am not saying that these Civil Servants who are now enjoying very high salaries should go down to a lower salary. Rather, I am advocating that we should review the whole structure of our salaries and make the present salaries personal to those who have them now. We must make a start somewhere. We cannot, I repeat we cannot—the economy of the country cannot bear the burden of what I call fantastic salaries. I think the time has come for the Government to review the salary structure—making salaries earned by senior civil servants personal to them. Unless we start it now, I do not know where we shall end.

I am very glad that our capable Minister of Finance has now seen that we cannot depend so much on external borrowing. I said before that we learnt that “they who go aborrowing always go asorrowing”. They say we will receive loans from another place without strings attached. Who will ever give us money without attaching strings? No one. I cannot give my money without attaching strings. Sometimes these strings are not apparent, but nobody whatever loans money without expecting something. It is very rare. I think we are now beginning to get things right by depending more on ourselves. The Government should encourage savings, provide savings certificate, savings bonds and other forms of savings and stricter control of our finances.

The other matter that I would like to touch is my Friend, Senator Asemota's complaint about oil evacuation from the Mid-West. I think it is the custom in every country that oil pipe lines should be erected and oil converged at one point. A refinery is now being built at Port Harcourt. That refinery will take all the oil produced around Port Harcourt and more, and I cannot understand why somebody like Senator Asemota should think that

the establishment of a refinery at Port Harcourt is unjust and that it should be sited in the Mid-West Region.

Another matter I want to talk about is in connection with the proposed Niger Bridge. I want to be informed properly as to whether this bridge is going to be a toll bridge. If it is going to be a toll bridge, are the Minister of Works and Surveys and the Minister of Finance thinking about how they can check the amount collected from the tolls? Are they going to install machines that will record automatically the number of vehicles that pass? If they do not do that, three-quarters of the money will be misappropriated—will get into the pockets of other people. They must begin to think about that now. I agree that it should be a toll bridge, but unless they are going to introduce appropriate means of checking the money collected, well one does not know what is going to happen.

Another matter which I think I did not hear very much about is the proposed iron and steel industry. We hear that experts have been employed to make proposals. Honestly, I do not believe in some of these experts sometimes, because more often than not the experts ill-advise. Why should we want an expert? We have coal in Enugu; we have iron there. Why not start the iron industry there where there is coal for smelting the iron? Why go to invite an expert to come and tell us where it should be sited? These people will give advice and we begin to quarrel among ourselves. I cannot understand that. In Enugu we have coal. Everybody is praying that the coal industry should be preserved, that we should not let the thing go overboard, and we have iron there. Why not site the thing there? I really do not understand why we should be looking for an expert. I am an expert enough for that matter. (*Laughter*).

As I said, I do not want to waste time. Some other previous speakers have covered quite a lot of the points that I had wanted to raise. I must pay compliment to our Minister of Finance. There are many people inside and outside Parliament who do not like the look of his face, but whatever they say, he is a very able Finance Minister and he knows how to get money where none exists (*Hear, hear*). I think he is a very wonderful financial wizard, and I pay him my compliment.

I beg to support.

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : On a point of order, paragraph 4 of the Standing Orders states that on Mondays and other days the Senate should assemble from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. There is not much work to be done now because tomorrow which is normally a Private Members' Day, has been taken up for Government Business. I am asking now if it is not time for the Senate to rise for to-day and then we continue tomorrow morning, instead of carrying on till six o'clock? Probably, tomorrow morning we have only got to work for two or three hours—

The President : The Standing Order you are quoting says that the Senate will go on sitting till six o'clock unless somebody moves the Adjournment.

Senator Asemota : Well, I am moving the Adjournment.

The President : It must be moved by a Member of the Council of Ministers.

Senator Asemota : Well, can I substitute him for the time being? (*Laughter*).

Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu : rise to associate myself with the last Senator who has spoken on this very important Bill. As a matter of fact, we have to be grateful for having such an eminent Minister of Finance who has been kind enough to submit to us the finances of the whole Federation of Nigeria.

I will start from the last speaker who has just mentioned something about mining. I like to look into the decrease that we have in our finance and the increase. From mining alone, we have a decrease of revenue of over £3,581,600—decrease in mining alone in Nigeria! Therefore, I fall in line completely with the last speaker, Senator Nzerem. Why is it that the revenue decrease from mining alone in a year, according to the Estimate in our possession to-day, is so much? I feel that something must be done. As far as direct taxes are concerned, the decrease there is only £40,000 and the decrease in Customs and Excise duties is almost £2,000,000.

That of mining is what I take into consideration first. Something must be done immediately as far as that is concerned. We

[SENATOR CHIEF HUNPONU-WUSU]

have some other ten Heads where we have some increase in our revenue. As a result, that has given us the chance now to increase and to develop. But we must start to watch the trend carefully in respect of these other resources from where we are earning money. Now, if a decrease starts to come from them, what will be our position? If from mining alone we have a decrease of over £3,000,000, I am afraid, we must do something to it. Why not bring the whole thing together? We have our railway engine, the machine. We have manpower. What do we want? We say we want raw iron. We have got it. We have got the coal. We have got the furnace. Is it electricity that we want? Can we not turn these things into something ourselves instead of losing money on them? That is one. I leave that to the Minister of Finance to consider because that is too big a sum of money for a young country like ours to lose.

Coming back to the question of industry, about which all other Senators have spoken. It is very good that we must look into it. The question of agriculture in this country does not show any improvement whatsoever. Rather than that, it is decreasing. I will ask the Minister of Finance to look into that for us. We have got very big fields. The whole country is virgin and the time has come now, as I said in this House some years ago, that the Regions should be taken into consideration or forced to know what is good in their Region. Take, for example, the Northern Region where cotton and coffee do well. I am sure the majority of our boys and girls leaving school will not come out with the idea that they must put in applications to the Government Offices or to U.A.C. or Kingsway, when they have got fertile fields. By the Grace of God, our Federal Government should take over the question of importing bull-dozers, caterpillars and machines that will work in these fields. How was it done in Canada or some other places? The Governments of those places had the bold idea of seeing the manufacturers, got in close contact with them and told them, "Look here, we are going to buy from you these things for the development of our country and we are going to pay you by way of 10 years' rent or it may be 15 years, it may be 8 years." Then these machines would be taken over by the Government. The people who own these lands have

not got the money to buy these bull-dozers or caterpillars or tractors as the case may be, but they rent them, in the same way as anybody who wants to send a child out with a cycle rents a cycle so that the child can go to Surulere and come back in time. It is the same thing with our lands. If they have been tested and we know that cocoa is good here and rice is good there, and then I can get this bull-dozer on rent from the Minister of Works for only a day or two, you can imagine then the amount of work that will be done to clear your bush for you. Then your children who are now perhaps leaving school will not think of writing application for work. Whether yam is good in Onitsha, Port Harcourt or cassava in Abeokuta, or coffee somewhere, people would take pride in cultivating them. I think the time has come now that our Government should plan that.

The question now arises: are we taking the city of Lagos into consideration? I now come back to my original request of a second bridge for Lagos. The time has come when we must not wait until something tragic happens before the Federal Government takes a bold step to provide a second bridge for Lagos.

Something tragic happened to us before our Independence. The skyscrapers of school buildings that we now have in Lagos sprang up as a result of the collapse of the St. Peter's School building which killed eight innocent children. I am sure that if that school building had not collapsed the Government would not have deemed it wise to provide good school buildings for Lagos school children. Now, we have skyscrapers all around Lagos which serve as school buildings. Once again, the Federal Government is waiting for something tragic to happen on the Carter Bridge before it takes steps to provide a second bridge for Lagos. It was in this House before our Independence that the present Governor-General, when he was in the Senate, asked the Minister of Works, Alhaji the hon. Inuwa Wada, to answer a Question as to what would happen if the Carter bridge collapsed anyway.

Several Senators : God forbid !

Senator Chief Hunponu-Wusu : Yes, we may all say 'God forbid'. But as human beings we do not have to be optimistic all the time; we must make provisions for any eventuality.

During the Trade Fair which was held at the Victoria Island, I saw a model of the second bridge for Lagos displayed by the Federal Republic of Germany. I also learnt that a sum of money had been lent to us in order to enable us to build a second bridge in Lagos. I will ask the Minister of Finance to clarify the position here. This money has been given to us free of charge by the Federal Republic of Germany. I am sure that this House will want to know something more about it and that the Minister of Finance will be in a position to provide us with the necessary information.

This is the capital of the Federation of Nigeria. Some of us who have been to England know how many bridges lie across the River Thames to-day. Senators will all agree with me that the traffic congestion in Lagos to-day is caused by insufficiency of passage space on Carter bridge. This is a very important bridge, the only bridge, which links the mainland to the Island of Lagos.

How can this country progress? We all want the whole country to progress but greater attention should be paid to the Federal Capital, Lagos. So, I am appealing to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Works and Surveys to see to it that something is done without further delay to provide a second bridge for Lagos. I do not know how far it is correct that six million pounds has been lent to us by the West German Government without any strings attached to it. The Minister of Finance is here now and I hope that he will clarify this point.

The Minister of Works told us before our Independence that he had been advised by experts that we needed seven million pounds to construct a second bridge for Lagos. Now, if we have been lucky enough to get six million pounds from Western Germany the Federal Government should be in a position to add another one million pounds to make up the seven million pounds required for the bridge. At least with the six million pounds the Federal Government can start another bridge straight away without wasting further time.

We are now saying that we want health centres in Lagos. Some of us have seen some houses which have been demolished. Some people have been served with notices to quit; some are agitating. Some Senators have been saying that the landlords in Lagos are getting

very high rents from their tenants and that tenants must pay low rents. How can they pay low rents when more than three hundred people are being turned out of their houses having been served with thirty-one to forty-one days' notice to quit Lagos? Where will these people go to? These people are being driven out and houses demolished in order to put up health centres, but these people who are being turned out are those who are going to be looked after. That is worse, no provision has been made for them. I think the Federal Government should look into that. If one is deprived of what one has, naturally one should be provided with some alternative. Has any alternative accommodation been prepared for these people, at Surulere, or at the Victoria Island? Senators will all agree with me that the question of accommodation in Lagos is a very difficult one. It is even said that it is quicker to get a job than to get accommodation in Lagos, and I believe this.

So, when the Government is preparing a law that will affect the public the feelings of the later must be taken into consideration. When proposals are being made for laws which will affect the well-being of the general public they naturally expect Senators to act as their fathers in Parliament and to say something in their favour. We do agree that all the things that the Government wants to implement are for the interest of Nigeria. But we must not introduce such proposals to the detriment of the people. Some of these people cannot even afford to pay for the accommodation they used to have. At present, some Nigerians earn as much as £4,000 per annum while some earn nothing at all. Some of these people who are unemployed and who have no source of income have dependants. And these people are being turned out. For God's sake let us take their welfare into consideration. Senator Chief (Mrs) Wuraola Esan said something about our Police. It is a pity that the Minister in charge of Police is not here now. In any case I will register my comments. It is often said that charity begins at home and does not end there. Our police force is very good. Our Governor-General has stated in his Speech from the Throne that the strength of the Police Force will be increased and that Policemen will be better taken care of than has been the case in the past. But a question stands out clearly. Are they doing the work

[SENATOR CHIEF HUNPONU-WUSU] ... people expect of them well? Let us start from Lagos. In Lagos it is an eyesore. One finds policemen who see drivers contravening the traffic law and stand watching them. This even happens on Carter Bridge. We always joke with this matter here but we seem to be more serious only when some eminent persons are involved in accidents. Then we make a bold headline on the danger of accidents and contravention of traffic laws. But when poor people are involved, the big men do not seem to bother. The big men will say, "Well I am not affected". Do we have to wait until we are affected? I am appealing to the Minister in charge of Police affairs to look into this. The police are in a habit of waiting until accidents occur before they take real action. The safety of life and property lies in the hands of the police.

It is not only the question of traffic offences. Thieves may break into some houses and the night watchman keeps on shouting, "Thieves, thieves!" There may be a policeman around but when he hears the alarm he runs and hides some where. I am one of those who say that policemen should be encouraged, but the fact that we are encouraging them does not mean that they should not render satisfactory service to the public. I am supporting the increase in strength of the police force. It is very reasonable and we hope that the policemen will be more hard working.

Now, I come to the fishing industry. I have noticed that a sum of £61,110 has been allocated for Fishery Service, and there is a further sum of £2,000. I want to draw the attention of the Minister in charge of Fisheries to the fact that this is a very important aspect of our economy.

Sometime last week one professor from Germany—that was my first time of seeing him—came to me. He introduced himself to me. He said that he was looking for a solution of lacto-thermaldihyde. I asked what he wanted it for and he said that he was a professor and that he was out to do some researches on Nigerian fishes. I asked from where he came and he said he came from Germany. I further asked whether he was on Federal Government duties, and he said that he was one of those sent by the Government of the Republic of Germany. He went on to say that he was to spend only four days in Lagos before going to the North and to the East.

Fortunately, last Friday he returned and came to me again. He asked for further supplies of this particular thing and I said to him, "Look here, what is going to happen after all these your researches?" He answered, "We are taking them back to Germany. Your Government here does not ask us to submit our results to them." I ask further, "But why did you come to our country if our Government has not invited you? What of these fishes that you said you are making researches on? Are you taking them home dead or cured?" He said, "Some of them will be taken alive. We are taking them back to Germany to see how what you have here compare with the ones we have in Germany." I think that this is the sort of thing that our Government should be asked to look into for us.

May I ask a question. To whom will this £61,000 be allocated, and for what? Is it for researches? We have been making series of researches but still we import stock fish and dried fish from Norway. We have stock fish deep in the north of Cameroun water. Has our Government ever asked our boys and girls whether they would come forward for training in fishing school? Have training schools been established in the fishing industry so that our boys and girls can be recruited to take a career in the industry? This is exactly what is being done in Holland and in Rotterdam. The Government has not done any of these things. Every year we find huge sums of money being allocated for researches in the fishing industry. Yet nothing is ever done.

If these avenues can be employed the question of carrying applications about day in, day out, will not arise any longer. The boys and girls will make up their minds and set their eyes on various professions. As is the case with industry I am appealing to the Minister concerned to look into this matter.

I now come to the vexed question of uniting the country into one whole. Although the Minister of Finance is not now present in the House, he said in the course of his speech that there is a baft-manufacturing textile mill in the Northern Region. The baft is made of cotton grown here in this country. I am happy, too, that a similar industry has been set up in the Western Region, somewhere at Ikeja.

May I know from the Minister of Finance whether it is judicious to levy duty on any product that is being transported from one

Region to another? This is an important question that I want the Minister of Finance to answer, for I believe that there are some things that can be grown, say, in the North and, which perhaps, cannot be grown in the East or in the West, and *vice versa*.

If we in Nigeria claim to be one and in our actions and dealings with one another we also claim that we want to be one, why is it that the Northern Region has to collect duty before raw cotton from the North is railed to the Western Region? I am not just saying this for the love of saying things, but this could be verified. It is on record, and it is for this reason that I am putting this matter forward. If this sort of thing is happening between the Northern Region and the Western Region what will preclude—

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale : On a point of information, as regards the question of cotton which the Senator has just touched I want to say that the only charge the Government demands is such an insignificant sum merely to defray incidental expenses.

Senator Chief Hunponu-Wusu : This cotton, as I have said earlier, is not being sold overseas, it is being used exclusively in Nigeria and within Nigeria, but the people are being asked to pay a duty of ten *per cent*. Since this is the case what will prevent the West from demanding duty for railing kola nut to the North, or what will prevent the East from demanding duty for sending anything across to the North or to the West?

If we are sincere in our pronouncements that we are all anxious to unite our dear country, I think that the time has come to put an end to this practice of paying duty on goods transported within Nigeria, between one Region and another.

I beg to support.

Senator A. Nwoke : I rise to support the 1963-64 Budget and in doing so I have to congratulate the Minister of Finance who has presented it. As a matter of fact, he is the encyclopaedia of Nigeria's finances, and he is an able son of Africa and we are very proud of him.

Last week he faced some doubtful Motions in the Lower House and he ably conquered and weathered the storm. I congratulate him again for this achievement; the nation trusts him.

I would like to place on record the achievements of Her Excellency, Mrs. Flora Azikiwe, who is at the present time representing the Nigerian people at the marriage of Princess Alexandra who had represented the Queen during our Independence celebrations some three years ago. Indeed, Her Excellency—

The President : Order, order. I want to remind Senators that we are not doing again a debate on the Speech from the Throne. During the debate on the Speech from the Throne Senators can do almost anything they like to do. But in a debate on the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill Members are confined to matters relating to the economic and financial position of Nigeria. If we are guided we will not go far wrong.

Senator Nwoke : Thank you, Mr President.

I have to touch on two Ministries—the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations. These two Ministries are the only two Ministries that are really new in our Constitutional set up.

It is only three years since we had our Independence and, as a matter of fact, the British when they were at the helm of affairs in Nigeria, made no effort whatsoever to advertise this country. Times without number the Britons who come to Lagos have asked how many miles it would take them to go farther into Nigeria, and in some cases, these Britons have been found trying to trace Nigeria from the map of the Gold Coast, now Ghana. They have even had to consult the Americans to assist them to know much of this country. But there was one thing that was clear to them, and that was that Nigeria was no longer part of the British Empire.

I make this analogy because the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations have been assigned the responsibility of projecting the Nigerian personality to the outside world. These assignments interlock, and that is why if there is any friction between the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs it is because these two assignments go hand in hand, in an endeavour to advertise the country—to advertise something which the previous holder had made no attempt whatsoever to project.

[SENATOR NWOKE]

I know when a man manufactures an article his first job is to advertise that article to the people in order to make that article widely known. The man has to spend money, energy and, in fact, time to ensure maximum advertisement. So when the Ministries in question fail to come up to our expectations let us sympathise with them and find out exactly what had been the cause of their inability to measure up to the standard expected of them.

To suggest a solution to any clashes would only require the Cabinet sitting to try to iron out the differences that may exist and to try to draw a line between them. If this is done there will be no rancour and each will then have to face realities.

But then, in passing, I have to say this much. The Ministry of Information will have to wake up to see to it that we fly more flags in the Federation than as at present. I do not think it will cost very much to manufacture these flags. I think it is a source of revenue if they are made and sold to various parts of the Federation. By so doing we will have the country well represented. As a matter of fact, in passing through so many roads one sees more of political party flags than the national flag.

We have in the Ministry of Education a column for antiquities. We happen to have one in South Ohafia. This is about three miles away from Ehem where there is a tarred road passing to Arochukwu. Government officers travelling from Ehem to go and see one of the antiquities, go on untarred road. I wonder why the Ministry of Works would not tar that little bit of road for the convenience of visitors there, because it will be very improper to visit such a place during the rainy season when mud will actually hold up their cars.

The President : Is it a Regional road, or is it a trunk "A" road?

Senator Nwoke : It is a trunk "A" road passing from Enugu, Okigwi, down to Ohafia and then to Arochukwu. Then a branch road forks out three miles distant. My main interest is that the Federal Government should tar the road because they are owning the antiquities there.

The President : If the road is a trunk "B" road then it is a Regional matter. I feel that road is a trunk "B" road, and the matter is best debated in the Eastern House of Assembly.

Senator Nwoke : *The Ministry of Commerce and Industry.* It will be a very good project if the Government could encourage local industries. Already in the Speech from the throne it was mentioned there. If this is done, not only shall we be providing capital, but we shall be providing employment for the unemployed. We all know what it is to get a new child. If one simply has a new child without care and great protection in health and feeding, that child will not grow. It is not enough to encourage these local industries by financing them. It will be more proper still if, after financing them the Government supervises them to see that they are not swallowed up by the foreign combines.

Now, on the Ministry of Health, I have personally felt that this Ministry should be Federalised. I myself being a pharmacist trained at Yaba here know that hospital training courses exist in the Regions as well. Nevertheless, when it comes to the registration of doctors, pharmacists, nurses, and midwives, they are registered in the Federal Capital. I see no reason why, when it comes to the registration of trained personnel, this is done in the Federal Capital, but when it comes to the disposition of nurses we allow the Regions to do as they like. We cannot control their various duties. If we can have the police system as it is now, and if we can control the police from the Federal Capital, I see no reason why we should not work very hard to treat the Ministry of Health similarly.

Now, I come to the subject of Defence. Defence, which includes security, is a very important part of our life. If we must exist, we must defend ourselves if we are able to. But under the Defence system, just as the Minister of Finance has ably explained to us, we really need something that is real. When we advocate for proper defence we must remember that we must defend our country ourselves. Time was when we imported people to come and do it, but, now, we should introduce compulsory military training of both boys and girls in our secondary schools.

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

Debate to be resumed upon Tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Senate do now adjourn—(THE MINISTER OF HEALTH).

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Senate do now adjourn.

Adjourned accordingly at fourteen minutes to six o'clock.

EDUCATION

Shortage of Secondary Schools

O.M. Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Bejola asked the Minister of Education if he is aware of the acute shortage of secondary schools in Lagos and if so, how it is expected to remedy the situation.

The Minister of Education (Hon. A. Nwankwo) - I am fully aware of the expansion demand for secondary education in Lagos. Provisions of latest plans to meet the needs are being made in my Ministry and every effort is being exerted to increase the existing facilities.

Senator Fagbenro-Bejola: What are the real efforts? That is the purpose of the Question, not "every effort". What are the efforts being made?

Hon. Nwankwo: The effort being made can be seen by the Senator if he will take time to go round Lagos and see the type of schools we are building and expanding.

Senator Dabiri O. Asiwaju: Can I ask the next question, Question No. O.L.P. on behalf of Senator Salami Fobani?

The President: No, that would be out of order. The answer will be recorded in the Official Report when the Senator is in a position to ask it.

WORKS AND SURVEYS

Trust II Roads

O.M. Senator M. E. Okunribido asked the Minister of Works and Surveys if he will state how many Trust Roads in the Federal

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

(The President in the Chair)

The President reported His Excellency's Answer to the Address (1st April) 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."

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS COMMUNICATIONS

Staff Allowances at Olofin Postal Agency

O.M. Senator A. E. Uduwale asked the Minister of Communications what were the amounts of monthly allowances paid to the staff of the Olofin Postal Agency in Ikeduru, Lagos, in respect of each of the years from 1952-1953.

The Minister of Communications (Chief the Hon. Olu Alimoh) : The monthly allowances paid to the Postal Agent at Olofin since 1952 are as follows:—

Year	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Amount	£ 2 5 0	£ 2 5 0	£ 2 5 0	£ 2 5 0	£ 2 5 0	£ 2 5 0	£ 2 5 0	£ 2 5 0	£ 2 5 0	£ 2 5 0	£ 2 5 0

I have to point out that the allowance paid to postal agencies is calculated on the basis of work, i.e., the volume of business transacted in the agency. Furthermore, the staff referred to were civilians.

WORKS AND SURVEYS

Western Avenue Police Barracks

O.M. Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Bejola asked the Minister of Works and Surveys if he will state what firm of contractors

SENATE OF THE FEDERATION OF
NIGERIA

Tuesday, 30th April, 1963

The Senate met at 10 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

MESSAGE FROM THE
GOVERNOR-GENERAL

The President reported His Excellency's Answer to the Address (1st April) 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."

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS
COMMUNICATIONSStaff Allowances at Oloko
Postal Agency

O.21. Senator A. E. Ukattah asked the Minister of Communications, what were the amounts of monthly allowances paid to the staff of the Oloko Postal Agency in Bende Division, in respect of each of the years from 1955-1962.

The Minister of Communications (Chief the hon. Olu. Akinfosile): The monthly allowances paid to the Postal Agent at Oloko since 1955 are as follows:—

	£	s	d
1955	2	3	4
1956	5	5	0
1957	5	5	0
1958	4	18	3
1959	4	18	4
1960	4	18	4
1961	5	5	0
1962	5	5	0

I have to point out that the allowance paid to postal agencies is calculated on the units of work, *i.e.*, the volume of business transacted at the agency. Furthermore, the staff referred to are not civil servants.

WORKS AND SURVEYS

Western Avenue Police Barracks

O.23. Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will state what firm of contractors

has been awarded contract for the building of the police barracks along Western Avenue, Surulere.

The Minister of Establishments (Hon. J. C. Obande): This contract has been awarded to Messrs Jammal Engineering (Nigeria) Ltd.

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku: Are the Messrs Jammal Engineering (Nigeria) Ltd. a firm of Nigerian contractors or expatriate contractors?

Hon. Obande: They are registered in Nigeria and have some members of this country as their directors.

EDUCATION

Shortage of Secondary Schools

O.26. Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku asked the Minister of Education, if he is aware of the acute shortage of Secondary Schools in Lagos and if so, how it is expected to remedy the situation.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachukwu): I am fully aware of the expanding demand for secondary education in Lagos. Projections of future plans to meet the needs are being made in my Ministry and every effort is being exerted to increase the existing facilities.

Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku: What are the real efforts? That is the purpose of the Question, not "every effort". What are the efforts being made?

Hon. Nwachukwu: The effort being made can be seen by the Senator if he will take time to go round Lagos and see the type of schools we are building and expanding.

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota: Can I ask the next question, Question No. O.27 on behalf of Senator Salahu Fulani?

The President: No, that would be out of order. The answer will be recorded in the Official Report when the Senator is not here to ask it.

WORKS AND SURVEYS

Trunk B Roads

O.36. Senator M. B. Chukwubike asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will state how many Trunk Roads B the Federal

Government has taken over from each of the Regional Governments since 1960.

The Minister of Establishments (Hon. J. C. Obande): None, Sir.

Senator Asemota: In view of the constant request for the Federal Government to take up Trunk B Roads from the Regional Governments, has the Federal Government given it any consideration at all?

Hon. Obande: I need a notice for that question.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Industrial Undertakings

O.38. Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, how many industrial undertakings employing a hundred people and over have been established throughout the Federation; how many are there in each Region and Lagos, and if he will state what articles are produced in each of them.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari): Mr President, the answer to this Question is rather long and, with your permission, it will be circulated in the Official Report.

The answer is as follows:—

According to information available to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, there are 183 manufacturing firms in Nigeria employing 100 or more persons. They are divided among the regions as follows:

Federal Territory	52
West	51
East	41
North	39
Total	183

The following items are produced by them:

Crushed stone
Canned and fresh meat
Milk and Milk products
Canned fruit, juice and vegetables
Flour (milling)
Bread and Biscuits
Sugar confectionery
Beer
Soft drinks
Cigarettes

Thread, yarn, knitted and woven textiles
Shoes and sandals
Singlets and other wearing apparels
Sawn timbers
Furniture and joinery
Mattresses
Printed products
Stationery
Tanned hides and skins
Sheet and crepe rubber
Palm oil
Groundnut oil
Paint
Soap
Perfume and cosmetics
Sanitary fixtures, enamelware
Cement
Concrete products, terrazzo tiles
Basic iron and steel products
Tin (smelting)
Aluminium sheets
Aluminium halloware
Metal drums, can and boxes
Metal doors, windows and frames
Nails
Motor vehicles (assembly)
Enamelware
Boats
Bicycles (assembly)
Plasticware
Plastic travel goods

Copies of a directory of the manufacturing industries in Nigeria are available in my Ministry. Firms names, addresses, products manufactured and approximate number of employees are given where known to the Ministry.

O.39. Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, what industrial undertakings are wholly or partially controlled by Nigerians and what percentage of the capitals they own.

Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari: The Minister of Commerce and Industry plans to carry out, in co-operation with the Federal Office of Statistics, a survey of manufacturing industries in the near future that should reveal the ownership of the major manufacturing firms in the country. The information that we now have is inconclusive.

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Garba : May I know from the Minister what steps the Federal Government is taking to encourage the indigenous people financially and with technical know-how so that they will participate in the industrial undertakings ?

Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari : The Senator knows that there is a Loans Board which can give loans to Nigerian industrialists and also that in all industries in which Nigerians can participate expatriates are not allowed to participate. These are some of the measures which the Government is taking to encourage Nigerians in industries.

Senator Asemota : May I know from the hon. Minister how many Nigerians have benefited from this scheme.

Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari : I need a notice of this question because it involves figures.

Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku : Is the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry aware of the fact that Nigerians in business, particularly in trade, now complain very bitterly that they are being ousted and that trade is really dull for them ?

Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari : I am not aware and I do not believe it.

Senator Asemota : Will the hon. Minister endeavour to make inquiries and then give us a reply during the next sitting ?

Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari : I will, Sir.

EDUCATION

Uncertificated Teachers

O.41. Senator J. K. Nzerem asked the Minister of Education, how many Voluntary Agency Uncertificated Teachers have been laid off or retired during the years 1960, 1961 and 1962 ; how many of these have received any *ex gratia* payments and how much was paid in each case.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Aja Nwachukwu) : There is no record in the Federal Ministry of Education of voluntary agency uncertificated teachers laid off or retired during the years 1960, 1961 and 1962. I can, therefore, give no information about any *ex gratia* payments to such teachers.

WORKS AND SURVEYS

Shagamu-Benin Road

O.42. Senator J. K. Nzerem asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will state what progress has been made on the Benin-Shagamu Road and when it is expected to be opened to traffic.

The Minister of Establishments (Hon. J. C. Obande) : So far 61½ miles out of a total of 156 have been completed. The remainder is in various stages of construction.

I hope that the road will be opened to traffic early in 1964.

Senator Asemota : Is the hon. Minister aware that we have been hearing these promises for some two years now ?

Hon. Obande : This is my final promise.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

The Minister of Health (Senator Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi) : I am sure the Senate would like to know that I have investigated the cause of the inconvenience which the Senate suffered yesterday when, during Question Time, the Ministers were not here to answer the Questions which were listed on the *Order Paper*.

Unfortunately, the questions which were listed on the *Order Paper* yesterday were, in fact, questions which were to be down for answer on the 25th of April, the day on which President Sekou Toure arrived here and it was decided of course as Senators would remember, that the Senate would not sit on that day and, therefore, Ministers naturally assumed that the answers to the questions would be published in the normal way in the Official Proceedings of the Senate. That was why many of them did not turn up yesterday to answer their questions. Some of the officials who were here yesterday of course reproduced the questions which were answered.

I hope this will satisfy the Senators and that they will appreciate that there was no intention whatever on the part of members of the Government to slight the Senate.

Senator T. Olamijulo : We should be thankful to the Minister of Health for what he has been able to do for us but, at the same time,

we should make him to understand that he stands between the Senate and the Ministers and as such an agreement should be reached so that what happened in this case will not occur again.

The President : Order, order, on a strict point of order, Senators cannot debate a Ministerial Statement and this is a Ministerial Statement. I want to ask the Minister to pass our thanks to the Government. We are grateful that they have cleared the air.

NOTICE OF MOTION

ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE

The Minister of Health : I beg to move, That the Senate, at its rising this day, do adjourn *sine die*.

Minister of State (Chief the hon. Omo-Osagie) : I beg to second.

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku : This is a very good idea, but we would like to point out that in fixing the date for the next sitting of this Senate every situation must have to be taken into consideration. If Government feels that the Ministers and others who are in duty bound to attend to this Senate would be otherwise engaged, or if sitting simultaneously with the House of Representatives would create any form of unpleasant impression in the minds of Senators, I feel that we would not mind if, after the small boys in the Lower House have finished what they want to do, we assemble so that there will be no excuse for any Minister to say that he was in the other House and could, therefore, not come here.

The Ministers are fully conscious of the fact that they cannot send their Parliamentary Secretaries here. They are the people who are to come here. So, in fixing the date for the next meeting, we want these points to be taken into serious consideration so that when we assemble here there will be nothing to interrupt our business.

Again, I do hope that it will not be very long before we reassemble because as Senators perhaps we have certain pressing matters to put forward before October 1st.

The President : Order ! Before we go on, I want to warn that we should not make this

an excuse for debating the former Ministerial Statement we have just disposed of because what Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku said was dangerously almost debating the Ministerial Statement about what happened yesterday. Could we leave out what happened yesterday ?

Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku : On a point of information, my speech is not intended to go that way but it may be on the border line.

Senator J. K. Nzerem : I am not going to be dangerously on the border line. I think I am going to be safely outside the border line. It has been suggested a number of times that the Senate should not be sitting simultaneously with the Lower House. We are all in sympathy with the Ministers and we know that they are busy people. The Lower House has fixed 31st July as the date they will assemble. Our meeting should be fixed about the middle of August so that our business will run smoothly. I am not on the border line at all.

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : There is only one point I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to, and that is, at the request of Senators he was utilising Private Members' Day for Government business. I want to make it perfectly clear that every Senator who leaves his home and comes to Lagos will be prepared to do some work, and not until all the business listed on the Order Paper is dealt with can a Senator consider himself free to go back.

If the hon. Minister would only just listen to one or two Senators who made a specific request, I would not think that that should interfere with the business on the Order Paper.

The Minister of Health : On a point of order, Senator Asemota is reopening a subject which was disposed of yesterday.

The President : Your point of order is well taken. Let us not go back to that point. We finished with all that yesterday.

Senator Abdul Salami Yesufu : I think that in view of the time which is so short, irrelevant points should not be allowed now. There are some Senators who have not contributed to the debate on the Appropriation Bill and we should let them have their say.

The President: Senator Yesufu knows what to do. What Senator Yesufu should have done was to move that the Question be now put.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Senate, at its rising this day, do adjourn *sine die*.

ORDER OF THE DAY

APPROPRIATION (1963-64) BILL :

ADJOURNED DEBATE ON SECOND
READING (29TH APRIL)

Question again proposed, That the Bill be now read a Second time.

The President: Senator Nwoke, you still have fifteen minutes more.

10.24 a.m.

Senator A. Nwoke: Mr President, I thank you for allowing me to finish up my speech of yesterday.

As regards Asaba Ferry, the Government should make provision for more ferry transport to ply the Asaba river. A lot of congestion takes place there because only one or two vessels ply the river and some vessels have to park either way. In some cases, there are lorries carrying on transport between the Eastern and the Western Regions. In that case, I think Government should increase the number of vessels operating there.

I now come to talk about the Opobo Boatyard. There is a clash of interests between the Federal Government and the Government of Eastern Nigeria, both operating the boat building industry in one and the same harbour. Mr President, you know too well that when such a thing takes place, one is bound to suffer and the Federal Government, being the octopus, may not just suffer as a younger member of the association, if I could use that expression. In that case, I am suggesting strongly that the Federal Government should buy over the industry from the Regional Government and save the latter the trouble of wasting money for nothing as the latter cannot stand any competition with the Federal Government.

In the Fire Services Bill, there is a provision which is emphatic on the point that where a major damage is done by fire in the Regions

and on the application of the Fire Authority or the Commissioner of Police of that Region, aid will be given by the Federal Government in the form of either appliances, personnel or technical know-how, to advise about that damage.

I refer to the Government's interest in the oil industry at Port Harcourt. I cannot imagine what is really going to happen if—for the sake of argument, we are not praying for it—the oil industry should be ablaze. How many millions of pounds shall have been destroyed before the Federal Government, on the application of the Eastern Region, comes to their aid? Are they going to aid the destruction? Will the aid recover the losses? I say, no.

I make bold to appeal to the Federal Government to take time and make some block grant to the Eastern Government so as to help that Government to prepare against fire eventualities.

Not that I hate Lagos, but I feel that too much money is being spent on the Federal Capital. I am not saying that there should be equal rating, but I am just feeling that the disparity between the expenditure on the Federal Capital and the Regions is noticeably great; even the cost of living is so great. The gap between the haves and the have-nots is so visible and I think something should be done to bridge the gulf. More and more encouragement should be given to outside influences.

Rent in Lagos is on the increase. The question of house rent strikes a blow to the low-income group, particularly the labouring classes. I do not know what next we can do to provide houses for the common men. But I do feel that if the Federal Government steps into the control of rent in Lagos, a lot of problems shall have been solved.

I make bold to suggest to the Federal Government to handle this problem of rent control immediately.

I come to the last of my submissions and that is on the Police. Some time last year, the Police did a lot of yeoman service to the nation by not only discovering ammunitions, but also by raking them out of their hiding places. The Police made it possible for the nation to feel safer, and that is a reason to congratulate the Police. This time we have at least praised the Police for a change. They have been

hard-hit from time to time and they get relief this time. They ought to know that whenever they do good, we will always acknowledge them because we have no prejudice against them.

At this juncture, I feel that the security of our nation shall not be safe in the hands of a foreigner—an expatriate. I make bold to suggest that that Department should be Nigerianised. I know perhaps there might be deputies or acting officers in command. But there is a difference between the substantive holder of an office and a deputy or somebody acting for him. When one holds a substantive post, one will do one's work with confidence. I would like to see a Nigerian occupying that seat. It will not be good to allow a Nigerian to act or deputise in a post only after his immediate boss has left, but rather it is better to hand over responsibilities to an acting officer when his immediate officer has not left to enable the person deputising for him to have a good grasp of the duties.

I will point out that there are many expatriate senior police officers in the Regions. These expatriate police officers outnumber the Nigerian officers. Efforts should be made to see that the Nigerian officers outnumber the expatriate police officers. The numerical strength of the expatriate officers should be decreased in order to get the Nigerians into their positions. When a senior expatriate officer retires, we should not allow another expatriate police officer to replace him. If we allow such things it will become a recurring decimal. We should give Nigerians the opportunity to serve in responsible positions.

Here again, I would like to refer to the Women Police. The women police should be encouraged. They should be brought nearer the top. When I say this, I do not mean that they should lead the nation in the field of police, but I feel they should be kept in a place where they will be taken notice of, especially when it comes to plans in the police service. With these few remarks I beg to support what the other Senators have said and also the Appropriation Bill.

Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku : I have not much to say on this Appropriation Bill because in the past year, we have so much expressed ourselves and our feelings are recorded in the *Hansard*. However, the first

point I will make will be the question of a General Wage Structure for Nigerian Workers, as it is contained in the Appropriation Bill.

For several years in this House, I have had no reason to doubt that all Senators have always agreed with me that it was time the Government should do something about it. When preparing the Estimates the Government should endeavour to meet the needs of the lower class of workers in this country. Each time when the Government releases the Estimates, the workers look forward anxiously to some sort of improvement in their wages. It should be noted that the workers constitute the masses of the nation.

Minister of State (Chief the hon. H. Omosagie) : On a point of information, I do not know whether the Senator is correct. The workers of this country are less than five million. The country itself comprise forty-five million people.

Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku : When I say the workers, I use the word workers in all its entirety including the peasants, the agricultural worker—

The Minister of Communications (Chief the hon. Olu Akinfosile) : Will the Senator speaking address the President of the Senate ?

Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku : Everybody in this country is a worker, but we go by one false impression that when we talk of workers, perhaps we think of those who are organised in the Trade Union Movement. Senators seem to forget that the lawyer, the doctor, the Teacher *et cetera* are workers, but when we clarify it, we say the lower class. Actually, you will agree with me that the lower class constitute the majority of the nation. Do not say no, in fact, they are.

The Minister of Communications : On a point of order, we certainly think that it is not correct to suggest that we are already top class in Nigeria.

Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku : The hon. Minister is entitled to his opinion. I have made a research in this matter, I have studied this matter and when I stand up to talk in this House, I talk with every authority at my command and I challenge the hon. Minister to a debate on this subject on another platform, and I am sure I am going to win the day.

The President : Will the Senator address me ?

Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku : When these small boys come from the lower House they bring some of their tricks with them here.

I was thinking that we all know the plight of the lower class workers. We should sympathise with the workers. We should make them understand that we have been hearing their cry and that we are willing to do something to help them. To help them we could increase the general labour rate throughout the country by sixpence. I am not talking of the doctor, I am not talking of the assistant chief clerk, the chief clerk, I am not talking about those who are well paid, I am not talking of parliamentarians nor am I talking of Senators and capitalists like my very good friend. I am talking of those people who bear the burden of the day. I know some of my fellow Senators have very big farms and I know very well that some of them employ labour on their farms. These Senators, I am sure should know the conditions under which these people work particularly those Senators with big plantations around the Mid-West area. But we know very well—

Minister of State (Chief the hon. H. Omo-Osagie) : On a point of order, the Senator—Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku is a descendant of the Mid-West.

Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku : I think these people like me so much. They just want me to identify myself with them. I think it will be on condition.

I feel it is never too late for us to do something about the poor conditions under which the lower class of workers are subjected. For instance, some time ago, there was a recommendation that the lower class of workers should be paid some sort of hardship allowance, but whenever we open the Estimates we cannot find it. It is disappointing that up till now the Government has not done something about it. This recommendation was meant only for the lower class and it was a great son of Nigeria who was a Judge and now a Chief Justice of a Region who investigated this matter and found out that it was actually desirable to assist the lower class of workers.

It beats my imagination, why the Government has never done something to this effect.

Everytime we talk about roads but who build the roads? We talk of improving our agricultural system, who are the farm workers? We talk of building skyscrapers, but who are the people to do these things? We must not make these people drawers of water and hewers of wood for life. We know that we are all committed to the Six-Year Development Programme and by the Grace of God, we shall find our way through.

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : On a point of order, I think my Friend Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku is making this position of workers very difficult to understand. If he continuously says lower wage earners and lower class of workers that will be fair enough. What about those people who are not actually earning money at all? What about those people who are farmers? How will he classify them?

Does he expect to see in the Estimates what the farmers earn by way of remuneration? We want it to be properly classified. He should not confine himself to people who work for the Government or those who work on the roads. Those are not the only class of workers. How are the other workers going to be compensated?

The President : There is no point of order there.

Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku : Thank you, Mr President. I did expect the capitalists would have to spring up. Anybody who knows very well how the economy of this country reflects, could very honestly follow the arguments I am making. We know about the economy of this country. The economy of this country is based mainly on the wage structure applied by the Government. We know also that the economy of this country is such that every worker has social commitments. If he is a farmer, a farm labourer, a labourer in the tin mines, whatever he is, he is committed not only to himself and his wife, but also to some section of his family. That is our economy. If he earns a sum of £15 a month and another member of his family is working for a rubber magnate and is only paid 2s a week, it becomes his own responsibility also to help him.

The President : The Senator should not point to Senator Chief Acholonu. He should point to me. (*Laughter*).

Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku : Your correction is well taken, Sir. This is the real position. Each time you talk of paying something higher to the lower class of workers, those who are company directors, those capitalists, know very well that if Government pays 2d, their labourers will want at least ½d increase. Government is not a profit-making concern, but these people are out to make profit, and they use their profit to benefit themselves personally and their own families, whereas Government revenue is for general distribution. I feel the time has come when our Estimate must take care of this situation. Some of us who have travelled outside the country know that this state of affairs does not show Nigeria in very good light. In fact, sometimes, we feel ashamed to say that in Nigeria to-day, even in the Federal territory of Lagos, knowing what the cost of living in Lagos is, there are people who earn only 4s a day. We dodge questions put to us on these matters abroad. This is not sentiment but reality. The Government will say they agree but will want to see what happens within the next six years. After all it is not fair for these people to starve or go in rags while we build sky-scrapers in Ikoyi, Ibadan and other places. These people have not got even a single hut. I do not think it is fair.

This is my main contribution to this Budget. I feel there should always be a Supplementary Budget. I should be very grateful if the hon. Minister of Finance would go back and urge on the Cabinet to make a Supplementary Budget to give labourers an increase. If you give them an increase of 3d that 3d is not going to benefit them alone. It is going to benefit the man working for me in my own farm, it is going to benefit the man working as your own house-boy.

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : On a point of order, my Friend seems to overlook one thing. It is all well and good to say that there should be an increase of 3d or 6d. But it is also proper to ask : how is the Government going to get money for the increase ?

The President : That is not a point of order.

Senator Fagbenro Beyioku : The Minister of Finance is a man with very great foresight

and we do respect him and I feel he has earned for himself in this session a name which will never be forgotten. I want to say that we shall always be very proud of Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh as the Minister of Finance and as long as he is alive we would like to see him holding the portfolio of Minister of Finance. But I was struck to hear him say that Government would not give consideration to increase in wages where there is no increase in production. I agree. I agree. Nobody can give wage increase where there is no increase in production. On the other hand where there is evidence of increased production I think the hon. Minister has equally committed the Government where there is increased production Government will have to encourage such productivity and consider immediate wage increase. I think the matter is quite clear. It is for the Government now to undertake an investigation whether among the working class, farmers, farm labourers, teachers, or industrial workers, and if there is evidence of increased production Government should fulfil its promise and grant the workers increase in wages.

Our hon. Prime Minister made a very big statement as to our future but in order that this statement may be properly understood and its good intentions realised, and in order that the people may not harbour anything at the back of their minds, I think before that great day comes, it should be the responsibility of our Government to introduce a Supplementary Appropriation Bill containing proposals to increase wages wherever there has been increase in production.

This is my contribution to this 1963-64 Appropriation Bill.

Senator Alhaji Abubakar Bale : I have not got much to contribute to this Appropriation Bill as the hon. Minister of Finance has taken note of most of our complaints. Nevertheless, I would like to draw a few points to his attention. The most important section of the Ministry of Agriculture is the Research section. Thousands of pounds is being spent every year to find out an easier way of planting, quicker means of getting more products from plantation. But what is the result ? The present day farmer is using the methods used by his forefathers 100 years ago ; he is using a plough used by his forefathers a hundred years ago. Government should look into this to see that this man improves. He should produce

[SENATOR ALHAJI ABUBAKAR BALE]

double what his forefathers got there 70 years ago. I think it is high time to look into these things seriously.

In the debate on the last Governor-General's Speech from the Throne I laid emphasis on the rice research taking place in my part of the country.

Research into rice production cannot be carried out in all parts of the country. In any case, my area is fortunate to be favoured in this regard. This research into production of rice has been going on for some time now. But up till the present time there is no factory for threshing rice and there is no granary in that area. Despite the fact that we have been producing rice in this country for many years we still import this grain from many parts of the world. There is no doubt that if we continue to import rice into this country the local rice growers will be discouraged because the imported rice stands the chance of flooding local market. So, the Government must do something to rescue these people. This is very important. If we want them to grow more crops they must be helped to do so. We must stop this importation of rice. Let us depend solely and wholly on home-produced rice.

I have a word to say about the farmers who live on both sides of the River Niger. These people work too hard. They toil all the year round but reap very little benefit from their labour. They sow their crops in the month of April but will not harvest them until November. The farmers in the far North sow their crops in June and harvest them around October. They still use crude implements. They have no idea of present scientific methods of farming. The result is that their harvests are very poor. The Government should do something immediately to help these poor farmers. They work all the year round but harvest their crops once a year. The Government should now come to their aid by finding a way to make it possible for them to reap harvests twice a year or more. Let them reap more harvests after the main one. If they can do this they will be in a better position to contribute their quota to the economic development of this country. What is more, we want mass production of food stuffs to feed our rapidly growing population.

Government may not have enough money to buy enough implements to go round all the farmers in the rural areas. But at least a reasonable number of tools should be provided. Get the farmers to form societies and provide these societies with a good number of implements. Arrangements could be made by Government to teach these societies how to enrich the soil; how to use the modern tools and produce more crops with less waste of energy.

The people on top should not look down on others. This country cannot make headway in the present-day struggles facing humanity unless the rank and file are encouraged. The Governments of the Federation should not forget the people who are lowly. They must be taken care of. It is what these people produce that we market and it is upon what we market that our economy depends. After all, we always talk of the improvement of Nigeria. We talk of Nigerian unity. But we cannot develop this country and this country cannot stand united unless we start to encourage the poor peasants who work our soil. This is a very important thing which the Government should look into and give full support to.

The other very important thing which I would like to touch upon is the road to the North via Kontagora. This road had been taken over by the Federal Government. Up till 1942 when the construction of that road started there had been one road to the North which passed through Bida. After some time this road was extended to Kontagora. This road to Kontagora has been coal-tarred, open to traffic and taken over by the Federal Government. A large sum of money had been spent on the construction of this road. But the pity of this is that it was constructed through an area where nobody dwells. The road which is over 80 miles from Kontagora does not run through any village. It runs through a very remote place.

The labourers who work on the road do not even like to live in camps in order to be near it because they cannot find any village around. Instead, they travel some miles every day to their working places. If one is travelling on that road and one's car breaks down there will be nobody around from whom one can summon help. There is nothing around,

and there is no food available. Although Kontagora is one of our biggest towns it does not contain modern facilities for passers-by.

The Mokwa-Bida road facilitates the journeys either to the East or to the West or to Bornu from Bida. One can even travel easily to Kano or Sokoto. I am, therefore, appealing to the Minister of Works and Surveys to see to it that the Federal Government takes over this road from the Northern Regional Government, particularly with reference to the portion that runs through Mokwa-Bida-Konga-Jos and then to Bauchi-Bornu-Maiduguri and which then joins the route to Chad.

I beg to support.

Senator Chief J. S. Olayeye : Thank you very much, Mr President, for giving me the chance to speak. Several Senators have spoken and nearly all the remarks that have been made cover almost what I had intended to say. At any rate, I just want to make few observations as briefly as possible. However, before I continue I would like to pay compliments to the Minister of Finance for the able way in which he has discharged his duty, especially in the preparation of the Estimates.

My first point relates to the Ministry of Information. The Minister himself has done a great deal to help this country and I have to congratulate him immensely; but I must bring to his notice that he should endeavour to tour the interior of this country with a view to collecting and publicising our native songs. Our native songs have been completely neglected and it borders on insult for the people of this country to prefer foreign songs to their own native songs.

For instance in Okitipupa which I will describe as the city of melodious and beautiful songs there are such songs like the *Biripo* and *Agbala*, to mention only a few, which have been acclaimed very highly by many visitors who have had occasion to visit Okitipupa. The Minister should not just stay in Lagos, he should try to tour all parts of the country. In fact, I would say that I do not think that he has done his job properly.

My advice then to the Minister is to tour the country extensively with a view to collecting rhythmic songs for the purpose of recording them. Let us have our own native songs put on records so that our people can play them back and enjoy their sonority. We are not

far behind compared with the people of other lands, and I do not see why we should not bring out the best in us.

The other point concerns the Ministry of Mines and Power. Promises have been made to the people of Okitipupa about the question of electrifying the whole town. Whenever we make the demand for electricity supply we are told that the plant will be installed soon, but now we are getting sick of these never-to-be honoured promises.

A few months ago a surveyor came to me and asked that I should allocate plots of land for the installation of an electric plant. I went off with him in a car to the allocated site and showed him all he had asked for, but it will surprise the House to learn that up till now no work has started on that site. As a result of this shilly-shallying on the part of the Government to keep up their word I have become a liar to my people, because I always try to console my people by telling them that very soon electricity will be installed. I am always telling my people that everything is set, that the Minister has *okayed* it and that work will start soon. But because nothing has yet started it is now being said that I have conspired to deceive them, and they call me all sorts of names.

The President : It is because your promise to the people was too premature.

Senator Chief Olayeye : As I said earlier nothing has been done and so I have now become a dubious person in the estimation of my people. My people no longer take account of whatever I tell them. In this regard it will be my pleasure if the Minister will come to my rescue and see to it that the electricity promised us a long time ago is installed.

A Senator : As soon as possible ?

Senator Chief Olayeye : No, I hesitate to say so.

My third item is about the Ministry of Works and Surveys. Most of the Trunk 'A' roads in the country are not in good condition. On my way to Lagos from Okitipupa my car broke down between Ife and Ibadan. There was no one to render assistance and I had to send my driver to Ibadan to get a mechanic to repair the damage to my car. I do not think that the Minister is doing his work in a way that the public will appreciate.

[SENATOR OLAYEYE]

While on the matter of the bad condition of our roads I do not think it will be fair if I fail to make mention of the Ijebu-Ode to Benin road. On several occasions I have raised this question and the replies had always been that the road will be completed as soon as possible. The people of Okitipupa had been expecting that the Governor-General will try to travel through this route to Okitipupa. There is no use making promises when no attempt can be made to fulfil them.

The Minister just sits in Lagos without doing anything to keep his words and without endeavouring to travel out of Lagos by road to see things for himself. I have noticed that every time I speak on this issue the Minister will not be present in person; he just avoids me entirely even though he is my personal friend. In fact, I do not know what is responsible. It is a pity that the Minister is not here. What is he doing? What plan has he with a view to expediting the work on the road?

The distance between this place and Okitipupa should be about 140 miles. It is very short. I might like to visit my friend at Benin, Owo,—

Senator Malachias Bawa : As a matter of explanation, is this road to Okitipupa a Federal road or a Regional one?

Senator Chief Olayeye : It is a Federal road. The work on this road has been delayed time and again. It is almost ten years now that work on the road was started, and I doubt if the whole thing will be completed in another ten years. A certain wife of mine got a child at that material time; the child is now in Primary VI. It is my desire to see the Minister here. I do not know why he is not here, but I must say out my mind. The Senate is always neglected. Ministers do not come here just because there is no Official Opposition. Anything we say here, there is no Opposition, but in the Lower House where there is an Opposition, the Ministers are always there to listen because the Government would not like to be defeated.

The Minister of Establishments (Hon. J. C. Obande): On a point of explanation, I would like to say that Ministers are here.

Senator Chief Olayeye : Even so, do the Ministers work here?

The Minister of Establishments : I am acting Minister of Works and Surveys, and I am listening to the Senator.

Senator Chief Olayeye : Will the Minister accompany me to visit the place?

The Minister of Establishments : I will send somebody to see the road, but I cannot provide a mechanic to repair the Senator's broken car. (*Laughter*).

Senator Chief Olayeye : It is very easy for people to sit down in Lagos here and talk about the complaints without going there to see things for themselves. We are suffering Mr President, because we are in one corner of the globe. Our idea is to see that we are connected by all means to Lagos and other civilized places. The Minister should not just sit down here without doing anything to see that the workers on the road do their duty and that the road is completed in time. I am sure that during another Budget debate, the answer of the Minister will be that the road will be completed as soon as possible. But the road will be there for ever. Therefore, the observation which I would like to make—and I can stand here talking for hours—is that the Minister should make a categorical statement about this. When will the road be completed?

With these few remarks, I have no hesitation in supporting the Bill.

Senator Medalla Sheriff : I thank the President for giving me this opportunity. I rise to support the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill. Many Senators have spoken at length about the able way in which the Minister of Finance has been discharging his duties in Nigeria and abroad since independence. It will be recalled that the Minister of Finance led some Economic Missions abroad, and no doubt, he obtained excellent results which made it possible for Nigeria to embark on our Six-Year Development Plan. At the same time, the Minister has expressed some concern about funds from external sources which are not coming forth as expected. The Minister of Economic Planning made similar remarks. It will be merely a waste of time if I go on recounting to Senators the good work done by the Minister of Finance.

The actual Bill is progressive and realistic, no doubt, from whatever angle you look at it. Nevertheless, I have a few observations to make

about the Six-Year Development Plan, the implementation of which seems very doubtful within the specified period. I would like to say that I am very optimistic about the outcome of the Plan. I am far from being pessimistic. But in the event of failing to get the funds to implement the Plan, what will happen to the Plan?

I suggest that we introduce more drastic compulsory savings or austerity measures which will bring more pressure on the Nigerian public. I suggest, in that event, that we proceed with the Plan at its face value and extend the period of six years to ten years.

Another alternative is that if the Federal Government wishes to go through the Plan within the specified period of six years, a review of the whole structure should be made with a view to cutting off any projects which are not essentially needed at this stage of our development, and concentrate on things like general and technical education, medical and health services, industrial production and expansion, transport, defence, and so on. I know these things are very necessary to our growing economy, and therefore any other items that are not very much needed at the present time should be postponed.

The other point is that I wish to see a progress report of the Development Plan year after year. A year has passed since we began the programme, but I do not know if there has been any such report. I have not seen one any way. I want to see this report so that it will be easy to know what has been done and what has yet to be done. I think the Ministry of Economic Development, in conjunction with the Ministry of Finance, is responsible for this programme, and I think that both of them will not find it very difficult to furnish us with this yearly report.

Yesterday, a Senator talked about the wide gap between the senior service scale of salary and that of the junior service. He was perfectly correct. We should remember that we are in a period of austerity, nevertheless we should provide equally for the low income groups, especially with a view to introducing a feasible wage structure for the labouring class—I mean those employed in firms and Government service, *et cetera*.

Whenever there is to be a revision of salaries, I hope the wage structure of the country as a

whole, both the Federal Territory and the Regions, should be considered. In particular, this wide gap between the senior and junior service should also be looked into.

Mention was also made of the encroachment of the desert in the North. This is a very important thing which needs to be properly looked into. I was made to understand that this is a Regional matter. I think this is really an international matter, and should be a Federal concern. If the desert encroaches upon the North, it is bound to drift gradually down to the South. Therefore, it is not very wise to sit back and say, "Oh, that is only a matter for the North Regional Government to see about." I hope the Federal Government should reconsider this matter. I do sincerely feel that it is a matter for the Federal Government, rather than for the Regional Government.

Apart from controlling the desert in the North, we are faced also in some other areas in Nigeria with floods which cause damages, particularly floods from lakes. These lakes overflow their banks and thousands of people are rendered homeless and considerable crops are damaged. Therefore, I think that the Federal Government should try to introduce flood control and relief schemes. Here again, the Lake Chad is an international lake and it can overflow all its banks in the Chad Republic, Nigeria and so on. I am appealing to the Government to do something about the flood control and relief.

Furthermore, I would like to say a few words about these research programmes, particularly the agricultural research programme. Several Senators have already commented on that, not only in this session, but also during the previous sessions. Agricultural research has been going on for years, and up till now there does not seem to have been any progress made. Prior to the advent of the white man, Nigerian farmers knew what type of crop to cultivate in a particular area to achieve good productivity. So it is not a new thing. Farming has been on for ages here. I do not see the essence of wasting thousands of pounds every year on research. Why should the Federal Government not try to use that money in building graineries in the Federal Territory and in the Regions to store up grains against bad seasons? I think this will be a better investment than this research.

[SENATOR MEDALLA SHERIFF]

I would not like to take up more of the time of the House because several Senators are anxious to contribute to this debate.

With these few remarks, I beg to support the Bill.

Senator Chief R. A. Umoh : I rise to support the Appropriation Bill. In doing so, I have to make the following observations.

The first thing I would like to say is in connection with the security of this nation. I will begin with defence. After all, there is everything to be said about the safety and security of this country. No effort can ever be too much. So, I call upon the Minister of Defence to check the very fine points that may still be loose in the defence. It is very true that we have a number of foreigners in the army and in the Ministry of Defence, but I would not like to say that we should Nigerianise Defence completely straightaway. I would only say that those who are worthy of elevation in the Army should be given what they deserve. I call on the Minister of Defence to look into the merits of those Nigerian citizens in his Ministry and in the Army with a view to elevating the worthy ones.

There is also something like the Royal Air Force detachments in the Army. I wonder if the Minister in charge of the Army has ever looked closely into this. These aeroplanes have high-powered transmitters which link them with other countries. There is not a single African working there. These people have their own cars, they put their transmitters there day and night. If what they are doing is to link us with Congo, why should they not put Africans there? I am trying to put this before the Minister so that he may look into it, because there could be a kind of competitive move at any time and who we may not know. I think there should be at least an African in every department of the Army. There should be no section at all in the Army which should be left for a non-African to control. I do not think we should have any establishment in this country where Africans should not know what they are doing. This is a very important point and I wish something could be done about it.

I remember putting a point across to the Ministers on the Floor of this Senate during the last Session which I believe was very

well taken by the Government. Here is another point. Let the people concerned do some research into the Army. Before we can say that we are secured, we must be sure of how many of our people are holding top posts in the Army.

Now, I come to the Police Force. In talking about the police, I would like to speak as far as my own area is concerned, that is Annang and Oyo provinces. In these two provinces we have a single police province. We are not in favour of one police province for the two provinces. This is the wish of my people and I am bringing it to the notice of the Government in order that something may be done about it. We want to have a separate police province for Annang province. We have a number of police units there, we have a detachment, but we wish to have our own separate police province with a Senior Police Officer resident in the headquarters of Annang province. My people have been agitating for this all the time; they have sent series of letters through the appropriate channels, that is the Commissioner of Police in Enugu to the Inspector-General of Police in Lagos, and up till now nothing has been done. I am therefore calling upon the Government to see that something is done about it.

It is a fact that in order to get things well set in this country, the Ministers must travel to many places to see for themselves what is going on in those places in order to be able to see what improvements could be effected. As I have said on the Floor of this Senate previously, there is something lacking. I know that every Minister has been trying to tour different parts of the country, but I do not think that the tours will be adequate if Annang province is not toured. Since I have been mentioning Annang province, no Minister has said, "All right, let us go down to that place and see what it is like, and then see what we can do about the agitation of the people there." I am directly representing my people in this Senate, and if the Minister in charge intends to come to my area, having seen the pressure being brought upon the Government through my personal instrumentality on this issue, he should tell me. Let him come and see things for himself, know the wish of the people and think of how to set things right. To bring things forward constantly on the Floor of this Senate only to see that nothing is

done, is very disheartening, particularly to the representative who is supposed to put forward the views of the people.

The President : May I inform Senator Umoh that he has no constituency.

Senator Chief J. S. Olaleye : I think we have two people representing the Ondo province here—Senator Ogunديpe and myself.

Senator Chief Umoh : I have stressed this point because that is the view of my people, and I am very glad that the Ministers are here to hear the complaints of my people as regards Annang police province. We want a Superintendent of Police to be resident in the Headquarters of Annang Province. There are two different provincial headquarters in the area—the Uyo Provincial Headquarters and the Annang Provincial Headquarters—and the only Police province in the area is left at the Uyo Provincial Headquarters, and as a result our people are lacking the amenities which they should have had from the Federal Government in this respect. As regards the amount of work that the Police there will have to do, I think they have got a lot of work to be done in Annang Province.

Senator H. N. Udoh : On a point of order, Senator Chief Umoh seems to ignore the directive of the President.

The President : I do not know what amenities Senator Umoh wants in Annang, because those amenities will almost always belong to the Regional Headquarters.

Senator Umoh : This is a Federal subject, that is why I am raising it on the Floor of this Senate.

The President : If Police is an amenity, then Senator Umoh is right.

Senator Umoh : Another point that I would like to touch upon is the establishment of industries. I thank the Ministers for the way in which they have travelled elsewhere to see things for themselves and then come back to see what they can do to help the country. After going overseas to see how things are done, these Ministers should come back and tour the country to find out raw materials for the establishment of industries. Last time, I was trying to stress that by telling a short story of an astronomer who was trying to study the

stars and every other thing on the sky. When he was trying to do this, he fell and the people laughed at him and asked him why he did not study the things in the earth before going to study things in heaven. I think it is good we try to study Nigeria itself first before studying other parts of the world. There are raw materials in this country which can be very useful for the establishment of industries.

I am trying to say that in the whole of Annang Province—I am sorry to make mention of Annang Province, after all, we want amenities for the whole of the country. Now, we have Fanta in Nigeria, we have 7-Up and we have a very good production of palm wine. Why can we not establish more industries? I would like to call upon the Government to do something to see that we establish palm wine brewery so that we can export our palm wine to Port Harcourt, Enugu, Onitsha and other places in Nigeria. Why can we not explore the possibility of this thing and see what we can make out of it?

Another point is agriculture. The Federal Government has done a lot on agriculture. Lagos is an administrative centre and most of the people in Lagos work in offices and they need food and other things from the interior. I feel that when we are thinking of how to help our people, we should not centralise our attention on the people in Lagos alone. Our attention should be directed to the masses.

The Government should think of the way we can help the people. We should think of their wage structure, their standard of living and things that would make them comfortable. We should think particularly of those people living in small towns and villages.

Agriculture is the most important thing. It is the root of every developing country. Commerce and industries, and other things we can think of are nothing but branches and leaves. If the root is cut the branches and leaves will fall. I think the Federal Government should do something about the masses who obtain their daily bread from farming. Every woman in the village, every little boy or girl, in fact every normal person who is not working in an office is a farmer. What are we doing to help these people.

Some time ago I suggested certain measure that should be taken. In the Eastern Region boys at school are being trained in farming.

[SENATOR CHIEF UMOH]

I know of course that there is no such facility here in the Federal Territory. The unfortunate thing is that when these boys go back they continue to farm in the way their parents have been farming so that the effect of these agricultural masters in the school is not felt anywhere in the country. Why not send out these agricultural masters to try to educate groups of farmers? These farmers should be taught the way to handle certain tools they could buy through co-operative effort. That is the only way we can help these people. After all, the people in the Army, the clerical workers and people who work in the administrative centres even those in industry, all depend on the food produced by these farmers.

So I think every encouragement should be given to the tillers of the soil so that they may utilise the gift of the soil. Nigeria as a whole depends on the things got from the soil. Without the land Nigeria would not be in existence. It is good to make full use of the soil we have, and make the people feel that the Government is trying to help them. The farmers will recognise the little help we can give them much more than whatever we do for those in the administrative circle.

I call upon the Government to see what it can do about this. Why not form a little group and try to teach the people how to farm properly and give them some help? They will value this help. I would like now to take the matter further.

The President: No, no. If you go further it will be Regional subject.

Senator Chief Umoh: I would now touch the Medical. I know most of the doctors in Nigeria to-day were trained overseas.

I congratulate the Federal Government for the new provision that lawyers who have just qualified should study a bit of Nigerian law before beginning to practise.

A Senator: Does Senator Chief Umoh like the decision that they should study for one year?

Senator Chief Umoh: Yes, it is very good because after all, one has to learn something about the place in which one was born.

Coming again to medicine, I would say that it needs a great deal of research. Research is

very important. Even before the advent of the British I know our people were very good treating certain diseases. The roots we see in bush have their definite uses. Every leaf has a definite mission. Our parents knew these things, and I happen to know them because I am at the head of a group of traditional rulers. In my own area I am a Chief.

If we do serious research into these things we will discover certain leaves and roots which are very effective and which should be known to all doctors. They can then add this to what they learned overseas.

Unfortunately, as soon as the people who know these things die the whole thing is lost. They do not like to show it to others. I suggest therefore that we should find a definite way of going about this matter. Even in the Army it is believed that if one puts a certain kind of leaf in one's mouth and one gets shot one simply opens one's hand and catches the bullet.

Senator P. A. Ogundipe: On a point of order, I think Senator Chief Umoh is dangerously going to the realm of superstition.

The President: As a matter of fact the point of order is that I warned yesterday that this is not the Motion of Thanks on the Speech from the Throne. This is a debate which must confine itself to the economic and financial matters.

Senator Chief Umoh: Thank you very much. I will leave that. However, I am sure my points are understood.

I now come to the question of labourers. This is a matter for which the Minister of Labour and Welfare is responsible. I share the views of Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku because most of those who have children in schools are the daily paid workers. Some are very highly paid in this country especially those in the high stations of life, and even those in the middle are very well paid too. Let us therefore come to the help of the labourers who are the mass producers of children in this country. Something should be done for them. If we want to raise the standard of life we should pay them higher because they have a great deal of dependants.

I agree with the previous speakers that something should be done for them. When we go abroad people do not ask us how much we pay

to the people in high stations in life, they assess us on what we pay our labourers. The Minister of Labour and Welfare should consider all we have said on this point, and as I do not want to belabour this matter, I support.

Minister of State (Chief H. Omo-Osagie) : Mr President, the hon. Minister of Finance had replied to every point that had been made yesterday and even he anticipated some points that will be made and I think his replies covered every phase of the debate. There is one significant thing in the Senate. As the fathers of the nation they have shown their maturity in that they appreciate people's worth. The tribute that has been paid to the Minister of Finance since he moved his Appropriation Bill is, to my mind, a recognition of the work of the Minister of Finance.

It is just like a man sending his son to do a certain piece of work and that work is done properly. When the son reports back to his father, the father praises the son for having done an excellent work. I think it is the same thing as the tribute paid by Senators to the Minister of Finance. I will carry Senators' sentiments to him and, as he said yesterday before he left, he was very grateful to Senators. Therefore, I have not much to say.

Many people dwell very much on agriculture. Agriculture, as we all know, is a Regional subject. The Federal Government is only committed to agricultural research and the Federal Government is doing its very best in that direction. If Senators have gone through the Six-Year Development Plan, they will find that the Federal Government, in order to encourage agriculture, has made substantial contributions to the Regions in order to pursue agriculture in a very realistic way.

Some people say we are doing what our fore-fathers did a hundred years ago, and so on and so forth, but Senators will find that within the next six years or during this period of the Development Programme, there will be a change in the system of agriculture or farming in Nigeria.

With this I have to move that the Question be now put.

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

Bill accordingly read a Second time ; read the Third time and passed.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION
(1961-62) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of State (Chief the hon. H. Omo-Osagie) : I have it in command from His Excellency to move, That a Bill entitled "An Act to authorise the issue out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the sum of Two hundred and Twenty-eight Thousand, Eight hundred and 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 two; and to appropriate that sum for the purposes specified in this Act," be now read a Second time.

This Bill is of a kind to which we are not unaccustomed. It seeks the formal approval of Parliament for excess expenditure of £228,803 actually incurred during 1961-62, on only four Heads without Parliamentary Authority.

As I have always pointed out, it is impossible to expect actual expenditure to be exactly equal to provision authorised by Parliament. It will be the highest stage of perfection when there is not one single item of misclassification of expenditure in the vast number of individual payments actually made by the numerous paying officials of the Federal Government.

The actual out-turn for 1961-62 was very encouraging indeed. The actual revenue received during the financial year exceeded the estimated revenue by nearly nine million pounds due largely to increased receipts from Customs and Excise duties and from Mining. On the expenditure side, apart from the statutory revenue allocation payments to the Regions and the large contributions to the Development Fund from revenue, the total expenditure incurred is less than the total approved in the Annual Budget and the various Supplementary Appropriation Acts for the year by more than £1.9 million.

The Public Accounts Committee of the House of Representatives has on several occasions expressed concern on expenditure without proper authority. Members of Senate are already aware of my very strong views on unauthorised expenditure and my determination to find ways and means of curbing it. Immediately the Accounts for 1961-62 were

[MINISTER OF STATE]

finalised and my attention was drawn to the excess expenditure on the Heads for Antiquities, Pensions and Gratuities, Ministry of Health and Inland Waterways, I appointed Boards of Inquiry to examine the circumstances leading to the unauthorised expenditure. The report of the Boards of Inquiry into the excesses have been submitted to my Ministry and have been very carefully examined.

For two of the Heads, I am satisfied that the excesses were unavoidable because of misclassifications. On the other two Heads, I am satisfied that the excesses could have been avoided or that steps should have been taken to obtain the necessary authority in advance of actual expenditure. I have accordingly requested that these two cases should be referred to the Public Service Commission which is responsible for the discipline of public servants.

Finally, I would like to point out that the Accounts for 1961-62 were finalised by October last. It was my original intention to present this Bill when Parliament met in December. But owing to the Boards of inquiry into the excesses which I appointed and my eagerness to obtain their Reports before coming to Parliament, I considered it necessary to postpone the Bill until this Budget Session.

I beg to move.

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

Senator H. O. Abaagu: I do not intend to ask how the money in question was spent, but I should like to know the reason for the delay in bringing the Supplementary Appropriation Bill to the House. Of course, the Minister has done his best to explain the delay, but I should ask the Minister to make his accounting officers to be alive to their responsibilities.

We are being asked to approve expenditure made three or four years ago, I think time will come when we may as well be asked to approve expenditure made in 1952 or 1953. That is what I want to say about it.

I support it.

Senator Abdul Salami Yusifu: It is impossible to describe the state of the Senate this morning. Yesterday the Ministerial Bench was almost empty, but to-day it is amazing because the Prime Minister himself is here.

The President: That is, I think, a point of information for the Senator to say that the Prime Minister is here. I think that is what the Senator has said.

The Minister of Establishments (Hon. J. C. Obande): I think Ministers are not here because the Prime Minister is here. We have been here since morning.

Senator Abdul Yusifu: I think it is a grand morning that we have the head of the Cabinet and his Colleagues here this morning. I am sure that the remarks made by Senators yesterday has re-echoed.

Senator Abaagu: I do not think what the Senator is saying is relevant to the debate on the Supplementary Appropriation (1961-62) Bill before the Senate.

The President: The point is well taken because there was a Ministerial Statement this morning and I warned that we should not make any excuse of raising the matter again. Let us, therefore, confine ourselves to this Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

Senator Yusifu: Thank you, Mr President, for calling me to order. Another point is that I am very sorry indeed that the current Appropriation Bill which was presented to the Senate yesterday came in as a surprise. I am very sure that that was the reason for many Senators not contributing at length to the debate yesterday. This morning too almost the same thing has happened. Many of us have not seized the opportunity to contribute and I think it is rather saddening because it would appear as if we did not attend the Session.

Anyway, I have no quarrel with the Supplementary Appropriation Bill which is now before the Senate, but I wish to call the attention of the House to the report of the Director of Federal Audit on the Accounts of the Federation of Nigeria for the year ended 31st March, 1962. I would not have gone into detail about the Report but reading through the Report it seems to me that it is not the fault of the Departments concerned but that of the Government. There were many irregularities like stealing, forgery, *et cetera*, which according to the Director of Federal Audit were discovered, but the Report says that this

was due to inadequate staff. I think Government should employ more staff to check these irregularities.

If I am not going beyond the scope of this Bill I wish to remark that no sovereign state can survive without some economy and people who are masters of their jobs. I feel it is the possession of these qualities that have led many independent states to the goal of success, a step which this Federation is trying very hard to take. With this in mind, it is incumbent upon us to put our efforts together and see to it that we get to this goal. It is this goal that the Minister of Finance is pursuing and I see no reason why we should not give him all the assistance he needs.

Last year the Minister described the Budget as the Mobilisation Budget and this year he called it the "Modernisation" Budget and I am sure next year it will be called, if I may hazard a guess, the "Ideal" Budget. That is when we are able to see that we do not—

The President: I am very much in sympathy with the Senator but obviously the Senator is debating the 1963-64 Appropriation Bill, but this is the Supplementary Appropriation (1961-62) Bill.

Senator Yusifu: You are quite right, Mr President, but the point is that I did not have the opportunity to contribute to the Debate on the Second Reading of the 1963-64 Appropriation Bill.

The President: We cannot make forty-four speeches on every issue that is before the Senate.

Senator Yusifu: As the Bill before this Senate now is a non-contentious one I support.

Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu: Thank you, Mr President. Most of the things that we want done by the Government in the financial year that has just started have been mentioned during debate on the Second Reading of the 1963-64 Appropriation Bill, and any attempt to contribute to this Debate would be a repetition of what had been said during the Debate on the Budget Speech.

This is a very simple Bill and I commend it to the Senate.

Minister of State (Chief H. Omo-Osagie): In the same vein I have to thank Senators

again, I cannot help repeating it but the only one point made was by Senator Abaagu. He was complaining of delay. I think I have explained the delay very fully in my speech.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second time.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be read the Third time—(MINISTER OF STATE (CHIEF H. OMO-OSAGIE)).

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third time and passed.

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1962-63)
BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

Minister of State (Chief H. Omo-Osagie): I have it in command from His Excellency to move, That a Bill entitled "An Act to authorise the issue out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the sum of Three hundred and nine thousand, Two hundred and eighty pounds for the purpose of replacing advances from the Contingencies Fund for the year which ended on the thirty-first day of March, One thousand nine hundred and sixty three; and to appropriate that sum for the purposes specified in this Act", be read a second time.

This Bill seeks covering authority for certain urgent and inescapable supplementary expenditure. This Bill is unlike the Supplementary Appropriation (1961-62) Bill which I presented earlier to-day. That Bill sought your approval for unauthorised excess expenditure which was brought to light when the accounts of the Federation for 1961-62 were closed.

The present Bill, seeks covering authority for urgent and inescapable expenditure which has been specifically authorised by me from the Contingencies Fund in accordance with the provisions of the Finance (Control and Management) Act. The Law requires that all such releases from the Contingencies Fund must be reported to Parliament at its next ensuing Meeting and that the Contingencies Fund should be reimbursed with the total sum authorised by me. In all the cases, I am satisfied that the expenditure was urgent and inescapable and that my refusal to authorise it would have been contrary to the public interest.

The details of the sub-heads to which I authorised additional provision from the Contingencies Fund are shown at page 3 of the

[CHIEF OMO-OSAGIE]

Third Supplementary Estimates now before you. They were mainly to meet increased expenditure on Government printing and to provide for 1914-18 War Disability Pensions and motor vehicles required urgently for the Police Mobile Force. I do not, therefore, propose to dwell extensively on them.

In presenting a Supplementary Appropriation Bill, it is customary to mention the Supplementary Capital Expenditure Estimates as well although they do not form part of the Bill.

The Supplementary Estimates of Capital Expenditure total only £519,792 and are required under three sub-heads under two Heads—Air Transport System and Communications. Under Head 626—Air Transport System—a provision of £169,992 was authorised by Special Warrant for the acquisition of the shares of the Commercial Partners in W.A.A.C. (Nigeria) Limited.

Senators have, on several occasions, strongly advocated the taking over of our overseas communications. In pursuance of the general wish, negotiations were concluded for the establishment of the Nigerian External Communications Limited, and the £336,600 inserted in the Capital Estimates under Head 627, sub-head 269 was to provide for the Federal Government's contribution to the capital of the company.

The third item for which a provision of £13,200 was made by a Special Warrant was to provide for the cost of the installation of cable and telecommunications equipment required for our participation in the American space research.

Rule 8 of the Second Schedule of the Finance (Control and Management) Act required that I should submit to the Senate for approval at its next ensuing meeting all Special Warrants authorised by me. In each case, Government was satisfied that the expenditure so authorised was urgent and inescapable and could not in any circumstances be postponed.

This Bill is non-contentious and simple, and I recommend it to the Senate.

I beg to move.

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

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time.—(CHIEF THE HON. H. OMO-OSAGIE).

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

PORTS BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku): I beg to move—

That a Bill for an Act to alter the constitution of the Nigerian Ports Authority; to provide for consultations between the Authority and persons using its facilities; to make further provision for the giving of directions to the Authority; to require the approval of the Minister for regulations and by-laws made by the Authority; to make further provision as to Federal Ports; and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid, be now read a Second time.

Although it has been found necessary once or twice in the past to make minor amendments to the Ports Act in order to ensure that the rapidly expanding activities of the Nigerian Ports Authority proceed in line with public policy, it is remarkable and satisfying that no major amendments have been made to the original Bill since it was passed into law in 1954. This situation is both a credit to the foresight of those responsible for the 1954 Act and evidence of operational efficiency in this important public undertaking.

The changes proposed in this Bill now before the Senate are intended to reflect present day progressive trends of thought in our community with reference to the constitution of statutory corporations and the relations that should exist between the corporations and the Government.

The Bill seeks to regulate the membership and tenure of office of members of the Authority and to enhance the powers of the Minister for giving the Authority directions on matters of policy and in making regulations on matters of public interest. It repeals Schedule 5 to the Ports Act and further defines Federal Ports outside the Federal Territory.

Now, Sir, I will refer very briefly to the Clauses. Clause 1 provides for changes in the constitution of the Authority. It increases the number of regional representatives from

two to three each, of whom one must represent the interest of the Regional Marketing Board. The representation of payers of ships' dues and harbour dues is reduced from three each to one each. All the members will be appointed by the Minister, thereby doing away with the anomaly of an Authority consisting of appointed and elected membership. Members of the Authority will continue to hold office for a term not exceeding three years but are eligible for reappointment.

Clause 2 empowers the Minister to establish a consultative body to represent the interests of the Authority's customers.

Clause 3 empowers the Minister to give general directions to the Authority with respect to matters which in his opinion either affect the public interest or are matters of policy.

The Minister is also empowered by Clause 4 to approve regulations made by the Authority.

The Schedule to the Bill provides for a period of transition during which the present elected members will continue to sit on the Authority until replaced by persons appointed by the Minister under the new Act.

This Bill is straightforward and non-controversial, and its passage will improve the constitution of the Authority and the administration of Federal Ports. I commend it to the Senate.

I beg to move.

The Minister of State (Chief the hon. H. Omo-Osagie): I beg to second.

Senator Chief A. O. Fagbenro-Beyioku: In the first place, I do not feel very happy about the motive behind this Bill, even though it may have good intentions. At the time when we had expatriates as Chairmen of the Corporation, we gave them full powers and there was no undue interference from any Minister. But now that we have come into our own and have appointed a Nigerian as Chairman of this Corporation, why we should begin to feel that Nigerians are either unreliable or incompetent, I cannot understand. At the time when expatriates were the Chairmen and when we should have interfered, we did not interfere, but now that we have Nigerians and we should demonstrate to the world that we are capable of accepting full responsibility, we have considered it necessary to have some

sort of organisation whereby not only the Minister but also the users of the Ports, who are mostly expatriates of shipping companies, should come in through the back-door and exert undue influence.

Of course, the law now provides that users of the Ports, mostly shipping companies owned by expatriates, should organise themselves and dictate how things should be done. Again, the Minister said in the course of his speech, "in consultation with the Ports Authority and the Chairman". What does the word 'consultation' mean? It simply means telling somebody that one intends to do such and such a thing. The Minister can proceed to do things after consultation but not necessarily with the agreement of the Chairman. The Minister can say, "I have consulted with the Chairman but the point I am making is that whether the Chairman agrees or not, the Minister will take action." I think there is going to be a clash of interest and I do not feel happy about it.

The first Chairman of the Ports Authority was the man who paved the way for the Authority. He was Chairman and General Manager. But when he was to retire, a Bill was brought to the Senate seeking that the two posts of Chairman and General Manager should be separated. We have separated the two posts, and now we want to enact that the Chairman will not be appointed in his own right—members will now be appointed and one of them will be the Chairman.

If I have my way, and if Senators will play fair with me, this much I will say. Does it mean that only the Regions constitute Nigeria whenever it comes to the question of accepting responsibility of this nature? Three each will come from the Northern, Eastern, and Western Regions, and possibly when the Midwest is carved out they will be given three. But the Federal Territory of Lagos is not given one representative. The principal port as it is now situated in Lagos is not going to have a representative. I do not think that the Government is fair to Lagos, and for this alone I would like to beg Senators to defer this Bill until proper consideration is given to Lagos. I am not selfish for saying this at all.

After all, the principal port of Lagos makes the main revenue of this country, and the main functions of the Ports Authority are now being extended to Port Harcourt and Koko.

[SENATOR CHIEF FAGBENRO-BEYIOKU]

The first Bill establishing the Ports Authority defined the Ports Authority within Lagos alone, and it was here that the whole thing started. But now it has been amended. No provision is made for only one member on this Board, but each of the Regions can send three and consideration is being given to get the Marketing Board a representation on the new Board.

I read this Bill over and over again, but the more I read the Bill the more I feel infuriated. I am now asking for an assurance from the hon. Minister of Transport, perhaps he is going to urge on the Cabinet, for an immediate amendment to this situation whereby no seat is provided for Lagos, otherwise if it is his intention that this Bill should be passed without any seat being provided for Lagos, if I am the lone voice, I shall register my disagreement. These are my observations.

Senator Chief (Mrs) Wuraola A. Esan : I think it is time that the Government should take notice of women whenever they are setting up Boards and Corporations in this country. These ports, in fact, are used by both men and women, and I can boast that trading which is carried on in these ports is done mostly by women population of Nigeria. These women's interests should be protected. I do not know why in all Boards and Corporations in Nigeria women are still left out. I am happy that the Minister mentioned that three representatives will come from each Region, and if the wish of Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku is met and Lagos also has two representatives, I do believe that there will be capable women in all these places who can represent the interest of women. I do not say that we should regionalise all the things which we do. We do not mind if the Government takes all the women representatives from one particular Region, but we shall be happy to have capable women to represent women's interest and not just women chosen because they come from a particular Region.

I am stressing again that women should be considered when the Government is organising Boards and Corporations in this country.

Senator T. Olamijulo : I think it is worthwhile for the Government to give due consideration to the point made by Chief Fagbenro-

Beyioku about Lagos not being represented on this new Board. It is share contempt of a man if a meeting is held in his house and he is not eligible to be present in that meeting. I think, if he is right, and I believe Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku will be right, there should be a member to represent Lagos in this case.

If anything is to be done in Lagos where the main port of Nigeria is, it is necessary that a member from the Federal Territory should be included. As such, I feel it is worthwhile that Chief Beyioku's request be looked into and the Minister should give this Bill an immediate consideration whereby Lagos will be included in the Board, otherwise the Bill should be deferred until it is amended.

Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu : I have two questions to put to the Minister concerned. The first question is whether there will be a chairman in this new Board which is to be established.

The President : The Bill says so.

Senator Chief Acholonu : If it will be possible at the moment, as this Bill is now before this House, the Minister should make a categorical statement about the point which Senator Chief Beyioku is now putting before Senators, because Senators, especially myself am entitled to my own opinion.

The President : Who is not ?

Senator Chief Acholonu : Because I am now on my legs, and I do not know what are in the minds of other Senators, that is why I am stating my own opinion.

Without mortgaging my conscience, it is appropriate that somebody must be considered for Lagos, because in this country we are generally of the opinion that representation in all places must express all shades of opinion. It is, therefore, good that Lagos should be considered.

I remember last year in the Budget Session when we were talking about removing some inhabitants from one place to another, we made it explicit to the Government that when such a thing came to pass it must not forget to give the inhabitants of Lagos special consideration so as to get special quarters before they were asked to quit. Therefore, if a Board of this Corporation is going to be appointed on a Regional basis, Lagos as the Federal Capital

should have its own quota so as to make the nominations very reasonable.

With these few remarks, I beg to support.

Senator J. K. Nzerem : I do not agree with those who say that the Bill should be deferred. I am in sympathy with what Chief Beyioku has said. It is the right of the people of Lagos that they should be represented on this Board.

I would also like to suggest to the Minister (because I have not seen any provision to that effect here) that a Regional representative should be nominated by a Regional authority.

A Senator : That is the usual thing.

Senator Nzerem : I know it is the usual thing, but I would like it to be expressed in the Bill, so that it would be generally known that Regional representatives should be nominated by the Regional Governments.

If the Minister will give us the assurance that somebody will be appointed from Lagos to represent the Federal Territory, there is no need deferring the Bill.

I beg to support.

Senator Oba Adeniji Adele II of Lagos : This is rather an unfortunate matter, and it all arose when Lagos was detached from the Western Region.

Originally, according to the Regional Constitution, we were part and parcel of the Western Region. But when the Government found it necessary to separate Lagos from the Western Region, we were separated without being given our own amenities in the matters of Boards. We protested strongly against this omission. We submitted memoranda upon memoranda, and when the last Constitutional Conference was going to be held in London, we raised the matter with the then Government. The matter was settled, and I believe certain inclusion was made in the Constitution that Lagos should be considered for every board in the matter of representatives. But it appears now that the Constitution is being overlooked by the Minister. As I have said, we need not bother. We all know exactly what happened. We have fought and fought over this matter. We fought and fought before we could win that particular concession that in every board we should be represented by a member. Here is an important Board like that of the Ports Authority, we are entirely

left out. I am sure the Minister does not mean harm. He must have overlooked the fact that the Regional Constitution has been altered and that Lagos has been given the privilege to have a member on every board that is set up in Nigeria.

Well, I would not say that the Minister should give us assurance in this matter. As soon as this Bill is passed, it is going to be operated upon at once. All that I require is that the Bill be suspended until such time as necessary amendments shall have been made. I am quite sure Senators will agree with me that when we all claim to be members of the same society, one man should not be cheated. This will be a real cheating to Lagos if Lagos is omitted from the membership of the board and the Bill is allowed to pass as it stands. I am strongly of the opinion that the Bill be suspended until such time as the necessary alteration could be made to it and a member included for Lagos as agreed during the London Conference of 1954.

The Minister of Transport (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : I would, first of all, clear one point. This is not a new move. It seems that many Senators seem to give the impression that it is a new law creating a new Statutory Body and that Lagos has been omitted.

As I said on the Second Reading when I was making my introduction of this Bill, the law was passed in 1954 and the Board is operating now. As a matter of fact, the membership is now being reduced by one. There are 18 people sitting on the Board now. Then they are going to be reduced to 17. All I am asking for really here is to reduce the number by one and I explained how that will happen in order that the authority may work more efficiently.

I appreciate the points that have been made all round, particularly by Senators Oba Adeniji Adele II of Lagos and Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku and by somebody else. I will try to answer some of the points. In the first instance, it is no question of showing that Nigerians who are now Chairmen are not capable people. But I think Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku and all the other Senators will agree that these Statutory Bodies are spending huge sums of money and these sums of money that are being spent are Government funds. They are not private organisation and, therefore, just as the Minister is responsible for his Ministry and the Department in the Ministry, the Minister should have

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overall authority over the Statutory Bodies so that the expenditure of their funds may be properly controlled.

As Senators know, the Parliament does not go into the details of the expenditure of this body. The Ports Authority will spend during the present economic period anything up to about £25 million. This Bill might give the Minister a little more authority to make sure that this money which is public money and which belongs to Nigeria should be properly spent. It does not mean any lack of confidence in the people. It is essential, to my mind, that this authority should be given to the Minister.

Many of the new Bills that we have passed have given this authority, and this is also what obtains in the various Regions. I am quite surprised to hear Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku suggesting that there is going to be provision under this Bill for users of ports—Shipping Companies—to have more authority in the running of the Ports Authority than they have now. As a matter of fact, the reverse is the case because, now the payers of ship dues and harbour dues elect from among themselves six people. And this is the main change that is being brought about in this Bill—I have now reduced that number to two instead of electing themselves as they like. The Minister will now have to appoint, as in other cases, one member representing payers of ship dues—the people who run Shipping Companies—and one member to represent the payers of harbour dues—people who import and export. The authority is not being widened; as a matter of fact, the authority is being diminished because we feel that the private enterprise should not be allowed to elect direct.

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku : That is exactly what I am saying. In the existing Bill, these people nominate their representatives. Now that point is being very well taken up. In the existing Bill, they have no organisational power to organise themselves and then to have the right to direct consultation. If it were that we have now removed the power from them to have the power to nominate their representatives, but have given them another power to organise themselves, even though they do not nominate their representatives to come and impose their will because—

The Minister of Transport : I will come back to that point. Senators will see that in

Clause 2 the Minister has the right to establish consultative body. It is not a private body which is set up at the discretion of the Minister. The Minister will have it constituted.

Let me run through the other points, because I do not want to take too much time. The main point made by Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku that there is no member for Lagos—there are three members for each of the Regions, and when one considers the population of the Regions and the fact also that the produce exported at Lagos and Port Harcourt comes from the Regions, there is practically no power within the Federal Territory of Lagos, and that is why there is strong membership representation of the Regions. They own the produce that is exported from Apapa and Port Harcourt and all these other places. That is the reason why this is so. But even then, it is not a legislative body, it is a body which sees to the export and import of goods to and from Nigeria. Even though where specific provision is not made in the law for representation of Lagos, the Government tries, wherever it is possible, to appoint somebody from Lagos.

Senator Oba Adeniji Adele II of Lagos : Lagos has the port, and for that reason alone I think it is essential that Lagos should have representative for the Shipping of produce from its port.

The Minister of Transport : I have great sympathy for what the Oba has said. But if we take this now, we have Port Harcourt, then we will develop Koko, we have Calabar, and on all these ports, everybody would like to get representation.

I hope Senator Chief Beyioku would not mind, if I mention that before he became a Member of the Senate, he was a member of the—

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku : On a point of order, I was a member of the Railway Corporation, not Ports Authority, by the Minister's own appointment.

The Minister of Transport : In the law, there is no provision for the representation of Lagos. I cited that just to show that in suitable cases where there are vacancies, we do select people from Lagos also, so that Lagos may not be forgotten. But this works out very strictly

on population basis and the amount of produce that is exported. I would not like to base my reason on that, otherwise Lagos may be completely ruled out. I think the Oba and Chief Beyioku who are from Lagos should rest assured that Lagos will not be forgotten.

There are so many laws of this nature. In all cases, we do make specific provision for Lagos. Well in the operation of the law, where there are seats to which appointments can be made at the discretion of the Minister, the Minister always thinks of Lagos as well as other parts of Nigeria.

It is necessary to make specific provision for the Marketing Boards because Marketing Boards control most of the produce that is exported from this country and that is the reason why they were specially mentioned in the Bill.

At present, the Produce Marketing Company have a member specifically representing it. Now we have departed very little by giving each Region one more representation and specifying that one of the three should represent the interest of the Regional Marketing Board.

Another point was made by Senator (Mrs) Wuraola Esan about women. I believe that now that there will be three members from each Region, it is up to the Regional Governments to recommend women among their three members. (*Hear, hear*).

Straightaway from there, I might as well answer the point made by Senator Nzerem about appointments by Regional Governments. No appointment is made by the Federal Government to represent Regional interests without due consultation. In the past we used to put down, "to be appointed on the recommendation", but yet there is a little departure because that is something purely administrative. We want to see that where the Federal Government is making its own, that it should be put there that whoever is the Minister in charge, should make the appointment. Naturally, the appointment will be made on the recommendation of the Regional Government concerned.

As I said, there is not much to quarrel with in this Bill. The Bill seeks to make certain changes in the constitution of the Authority, to reduce the number of members from

eighteen to seventeen and to provide for more representation from the Regions so that the Authority or the Government may be further reflected.

The point made about Lagos, I must say, is well taken. I think I have attempted to answer it. I will bear that in mind in making appointments to the three seats that are not specifically allotted to any particular Region or any particular interest and, as usual, Lagos will not be forgotten. But I would like to appeal to the Members of the Senate to give the Bill an easy passage. It has nothing new, it has been in operation for nearly nine years now and no hardship has been done to Lagos as a result of that. I should naturally think—

Senator Oba Adeniji Adele II of Lagos : On a point of order, Mr President, the fact is that, originally, Lagos was merged with the Western Region. When the Constitution was made, Lagos was classified with the Western Region. But when Lagos was separated, no notice of that separation was taken in matters of boards, hence you find that it is not a matter of population, it is not a matter of produce, but the fact is that when Lagos was separated from the Western Region, the Law Officers then, or the Government, forgot that Lagos was separated and they did not give Lagos what was due to Lagos. They were still considering Lagos as part and parcel of the Western Region. That was exactly what accounted for the mistake.

I know that the mistake was not intentional, but we have been fighting for this matter all along and we have been given the assurance. Even during the 1954 Constitutional Conference in London, this matter was raised because we submitted a Memorandum to the Government and it was agreed that in every Board, Lagos should be represented. The Board that the Minister was referring to was in existence before, I believe, they went to London in 1954, hence that omission. As that matter has come forward now, I feel it is time we rectified the omission that has been made in the past. That is my contention, Mr President.

The Minister of Transport : As I was saying, Sir, in the actual working out of the appointment of members, sometimes you find quite a number of people who are either resident in Lagos—who belong to Lagos—and find their way to the Board. At the moment, there

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are quite a few people who are doing business in Lagos and who are on this Board. If I mention their names, I will be told they come from somewhere in the Regions. As I said, there is nothing really new in the composition of the Board of the Authority which the Bill seeks to bring.

Again, the representation of Lagos on statutory bodies is a matter which should be taken up as a matter of policy. I would urge the Oba of Lagos and Senator Beyioku to support this Bill and to take up this matter again with Government. For instance, I have been Minister of Transport for more than five years and nobody has ever made any representation to me that Lagos is not being represented on this Board. This is a matter which should be raised with the Federal Government and the Federal Government will look at it as a matter of policy. It needs a very important policy decision which I, as a single Minister, cannot decide.

I think it would be a little unfair for anybody to expect me to take such a major decision which the Federal Government should take. I concede to the Oba and to Senator Beyioku, that this is a matter which may be legitimately raised with the Federal Government. When it is raised and the Federal Government decides that that should be the practice—that on all these statutory bodies Lagos should have specific representation—I shall only be too glad to implement such a decision.

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku: For further clarification, Sir—

The President: The best place to ask question for clarification is at the Committee Stage. We are coming to the Committee Stage.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in committee.

PORTS BILL CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clause 1—ALTERATION OR CONSTITUTION OF PORTS AUTHORITY.

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku: I want the hon. Minister of Transport to tell this House whether he is not aware of the final decisions on the constitutional set up of

this country—when Lagos was removed from the Western Region and the final arrangement as contained in certain instruments is that on Boards, where representatives are required, and on Corporations where representatives will be required, Lagos will be accorded a seat. I am asking whether the hon. Minister as a participant at the drafting of our Constitution, will say that he is not aware of such a situation?

The Minister of Transport: As I said before, there is no provision in our present Constitution making it obligatory for the Government to make special provision for the representation of Lagos. That does not mean that Lagos will not be represented. If what Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku said were the case, our law officers would have made sure when they were drafting this Bill, that that part of the Constitution was complied with.

Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku: I am still not satisfied with the explanation given because, to the best of my knowledge our constitution provides for it. If I knew that my hon. Friend, the Minister of Transport, would have forgotten all about that part of the Constitution, I should have brought my own copy of the Constitution here. I have always regarded him as a very brilliant gentleman. However, whatever happens in this matter, I will like the hon. Minister of Transport to give an assurance that we who are natives of Lagos could come before Parliament by way of a Motion to establish our right. I am sure my Regional Colleagues and Regional Parliamentarians will all support this and that it will be a very good way out. I accept his suggestion quite all right.

The Chairman: As a matter of fact, he did not say that you must bring a Motion. He said that you should make a representation to the Government. You must not make a Motion. You may all go to the Prime Minister and make representations.

Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku: I quite realise that there is this question of collective responsibility and it is not my intention to embarrass any Minister, but when we are here working, anything we do here, particularly when it relates to law, will be quoted. We cannot sit here unrepresented.

Our friends from the Regions are all smiling because they know very well that their Regions will be represented, whereas we the natives of Lagos—where the port is situated—cannot be represented. Some people are talking of exports coming from the Regions but what about the consumption of imports from abroad? If we institute an inquiry into the consumption of imports, it will be discovered that we here in Lagos consume more than any of the Regions. It is true that we have no crops to export, but we consume the imported ones.

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : On a point of information, it is not fair for the Senator to say that other Senators from the Regions are smiling. After all we do not look upon ourselves as representing only one section of the country. We are also interested in Lagos. If there is anything about Lagos that will justify our wholehearted support, we shall certainly give that support. We are not here to laugh while the Senator is labouring on matters relating to Lagos. We are equally interested in Lagos. If anything comes forward that affects Lagos or any part of the country, we shall take an equal interest.

The Chairman : Order! I want to tell Senator Beyioku again, as a matter of accuracy, that almost every Senator who spoke here supported Lagos. You have not done what you have the right to do. You have not pressed for a division; you do not carry the people with you so as to throw the Bill out. I do not know what you are saying. There is nobody who has smiled with satisfaction that Lagos has been defeated.

Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku : Not that I do not know what to do. Not that I did not do what I should do. I know what to do in this particular matter. When you ruled that we should proceed to the Committee stage, I still knew what to do. Even on the Third Reading, I still know what to do. At the Committee Stage, I could get the whole matter deferred.

The Chairman : I think the Senator is old enough to remember that he is to address the Chair and not those people over there.

Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku : When these people come from the Lower House, they embarrass us a lot. In this particular case, I have not got any assurance which I can hold

and unfortunately, I have not filed an Amendment. I know that is what they would like to say. At this stage, I will, with your permission file an Amendment and pass it to your Table. I thought the hon. Minister will accept my suggestion, that was why I did not file an Amendment earlier.

The Chairman : I have not got your Amendment.

Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku : I shall file an Amendment on this Clause and shall pass it on to you soon.

Senator J. K. Nzerem : I want to ask one question and that is who at present represents Lagos on this Board? Is our friend insisting that a man who has been resident in Lagos for about twenty years does not qualify as a Lagos man? Are we so tribalistic that if a man is born and bred here and also trades here and at the same time represents Lagos, that Lagos is not represented? Does he want to make me understand that. I am of the opinion that if a man has been resident in Lagos for twenty or thirty years (perhaps that man was born here and he is doing his business here) he is qualified as a Lagos man and could represent Lagos.

I know of an Hausa man living in Lagos and who is a member of our customary court in the East. We are so broadminded that we regard everybody who is born in a particular place and is resident there as a native of that place. Since we are all Nigerians, I see no reason why Lagos should quarrel.

Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku : On a point of clarification.

The Chairman : First of all let us get the procedure right. There is no point of clarification anywhere. The second point is that we are in Committee and so you can speak about twenty times and as such you do not need to raise a point of anything.

Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku : The case my Friend from the East raised is quite different. We have people here who are from the East and who are representing Lagos. There is no place in Nigeria like Lagos where you can find people more broadminded.

When a Northerner resident in Lagos is appointed as one of the three Members representing the Northern Region, it does not

[SENATOR CHIEF FAGBENRO-BEYIOKU] mean that he is representing Lagos, even though he is resident in Lagos. That is the point, because the appointment of that particular Northerner resident in Lagos is mainly to represent the interest of the Northern Region. Similarly, when a Lagos man resident in Enugu is appointed to a Committee representing the West, the mere fact that he is resident in Enugu does not make him represent the interest of the Eastern Region, but that of the Western Region because his appointment is to represent the Western Region.

If we have it here that one man shall have to represent Lagos, no matter where he comes from—whether from the East, North or West—since his appointment is to represent Lagos, that is sufficient.

Most of the Members of this Board are my friends and I know very well that many of them are resident in Lagos. But they are either representing the Eastern Region or the Western Region. So when it comes to the question of interest about Lagos and you go to them to discuss it, they will certainly say that they are sorry, and that they are representing the interest of the West or East. Therefore the question of Lagos is not my exclusive concern. That is the position.

We do not say that it is only a Lagos man that should be appointed to the Board. I could cite so many people who are non-Lagos people but they have been representing Lagos on Committees. I certainly feel that I should file an Amendment and the Chairman will get it on his Table when he comes back by three o'clock.

Sitting suspended : 1 p.m.

Sitting resumed : 3 p.m.

The Minister of Transport : I would like to give an assurance that of the three Members that the Minister of Transport will have the privilege to appoint, one of them will be for Lagos. (*Hear, hear*). This will give the Lagos people the opportunity of having representative on the Statutory Board.

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku : I think I have to thank the hon. Minister of Transport for the assurance he has given. The hon. Minister of Transport is a person whom we all so love and respect and anything he favours we accept without reservation.

In this connection, I am prepared to accept his assurance without reservation, feeling confident that he will discharge the obligation which he has now imposed upon himself. That being so and as I have already filed an Amendment, I do not think I will pursue it.

Senator Oba Adeniji Adele II of Lagos : I think I shall have to accept that assurance too and would have to be very grateful to the Minister. Outside this meeting we shall take up our matter with the Prime Minister who, as everybody knows, has done more than anybody else in this country to raise the status of Lagos to its former stage. We thank the Minister of Transport very much for the assurance and we shall do our best to see that this kind of thing does not occur again.

Clause 1—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clauses 2-6—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Schedule agreed to.

Bill reported, without Amendment ; read the Third time and passed.

FEDERAL COMMISSIONS (PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES) BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

Minister of State (Chief the hon. H. Omo-Osagie) : I beg to move that a Bill for an Act to provide for the immunity from Civil Proceedings of the members of the Police Service Commission, the Judicial Service Commission and the Public Service Commission of the Federation and for the privilege of the documents of such Commissions, be now read a Second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to provide for the immunity from civil proceedings of members of the Federal Public Service Commission, the Police Service Commission and the Judicial Service Commission and for the privilege of the documents of such Commissions.

I beg to move.

The Minister of Health (Dr the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi) : I beg to second.

Senator T. Olamijulo : I have to support this Bill. I think it is very good that we think about the advantages of the public on the whole. Such a Bill, I think augurs well for our safety. It should however be published

for some time for the public to study and the Members of the Lower House and the Upper House to know about it and be able to say something about it before it is out. In its present form the Bill has been published, without sufficient notice being given to the public to study and be able to criticize it.

With these few remarks, I will support.

Senator J. K. Nzerem : I wonder what the object of this Bill is. Why has the Government introduced it? Has there been any litigation against the Public Service Commission, the Police Service Commission or the Judicial Service Commission as such in the past? I do not see the necessity for the law. But if the Minister says that the Government is anticipating some trouble, or that there is some trouble in the offing he should let us know.

Ordinarily, these Commissions carry out their work confidentially and they can turn down any prospective applicant without revealing the cause for such a decision. I do not know of any case that has ever gone to court as a result of their turning any applicant down. Is anybody threatening to take them to court? Or has this Bill been introduced in order to make assurance doubly sure? We want to know the purpose of this Bill.

The Minister of Transport and Aviation (Hon. R. A. Njoku) : Perhaps I may clear the air now. It is considered necessary to accord the privilege to these bodies because of the type of work which they do. They normally have knowledge of privileged information about members of the Civil Service, the Police Service and the Judicial Service. These people are holding very responsible positions and some of the information they have, some of the work they have to do, are very delicate indeed.

It is considered, therefore, by the Government that the best thing is not to wait until somebody is sued already before they come to their rescue. It is thought by the Government that, because of the type of work that these people have to do, it is in the best interests of the public that the law should give them protection.

We do not know what may happen in future. I do not know of any case yet where they have been sued. But there has been some correspondence in certain cases and it is thought by the Government that the best thing would be to grant these bodies special privilege because of the type of work they have to do.

I think that all Senators will agree that members of these bodies hold very important positions, and that the nature of their office is such that there comes to their knowledge special information about people. In certain cases some people who do not get exactly what they want may feel that they have been prejudiced in one way or the other. In order to insulate them completely from litigation in civil cases it is considered necessary that this law should be passed so that if any persons are appointed to these Commissions such people will have no compunction whatever, no fear whatever, in discharging their duties. They should discharge their duties without fear or favour and to the best of their conscience; and they will be more fortified if they know that nobody can take any civil action against them for any decision they may take.

Senator A. E. Ukattah : It appears that the Government has anticipated some dangers. One of the most recent decisions taken by one of these Commissions, the Federal Public Service Commission, is not in the best interests of this nation. I have in mind the case of one Mr Lardner who was a Permanent Secretary. His case went up to the Federal Public Service Commission and was handled in such an injudicious manner that this gentleman was demoted. A man who had merited being promoted to the post of Permanent Secretary was for very flimsy reasons pulled down from his pinnacle of authority to the abyss of subordination. The man is now an ordinary Administrative Officer.

In fact, I think that that alone was sufficient to make the Government aware of some trouble in the future. The Public Service Commission is to serve the nation. And this man, Mr Lardner, was demoted. He was not, to my mind, guilty of any serious offence. The offences which led to his demotion were published in the press and had not been refuted by the Government. One of the charges as told was that he prepared papers for one of the foreign Ministers in this country who was going to attend an international conference. There is nothing wrong in that. It is in fact a credit to this country. The paper which he prepared was not even received by the gentleman for whom it was prepared. It was impounded in Leopoldville by the Nigerian representative there. So, in actual

[SENATOR UKATTAH]

fact the man did not receive that paper. And in any case Mr Lardner's assistant prepared another paper.

The President : Order, order! I was waiting for somebody from the Government Benches to call for a point of order. A thing like this one ought to come really in form of a substantive Motion. If it is brought up then everybody will be ready for the debate. But I had given the Senator a little bit of latitude thinking that he would stop.

Senator Ukattah : If this requires a substantive Motion then I shall have to bring it here because I feel that that man has not been properly treated.

The President : The Senator is entitled to bring a substantive Motion on this issue.

Senator Ukattah : He has been unfairly treated and the Government is against extravagance and waste. But extravagance does not relate to money only. It can be in form of waste of intellectual ability and ripe experience like that man's.

The President : Is the Senator still going on?

Senator Ukattah : Well, I support this Bill very reluctantly.

Senator S. Eyitayo : I rise to support this Bill. It is non-controversial. I really praise the Government for having the foresight to introduce it now. The Government has not waited until an emergency occurs before introducing it. Therefore, I beg to support it.

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : This looks to me a peculiar Bill indeed. Why is it that these are the only people to be exempted from litigation: the Police Service Commission, the Judicial Service Commission and the Federal Public Service Commission? What about the other Commissions and Boards? Supposing they do things that do not satisfy the people, how will Government know that they are wrong in their decision? Why should Government like to protect these three bodies while all the other Boards which are of the same status as these Commissions are open to bombs and all sorts of things? Why?

Minister of State (Chief the Hon. H. Omo-Osagie): I am sorry that the Senator is under some illusion. We are talking of Commissions and not Boards. Boards are different from Commissions. The Police Service Commission, the Judicial Service Commission and the Federal Public Service Commission are totally different from the ordinary Boards. These three institutions of the Federal Government are specialised agencies. This is understandable.

We should thank God that the President has called somebody to order. We have heard that somebody was demoted and a Senator was saying that what that person wrote had not got to its destination. But the intention was there. If what he wrote had got to its destination, what would have happened? The whole country might have been blown off. I am not prepared to discuss that here but I am merely telling the Senator that Commissions are different from Boards.

Senator Asemota : I appreciate the fact that Commissions are different from Boards. But what peculiar duties, other than to appoint and interview people for promotion, are these Commissions set up to do that they should be exempted from civil action? How will Government get to know that there is a decision taken by any one of these Commissions that is wrong?

For instance, if three applicants apply for job and in the process someone who feels that he has all the necessary credentials to qualify him for an advertised post is rejected without good reasons, how will Government get to know he has not been fairly treated? I think the best thing to do is to take action against such rejection. I must confess that I do not see the wisdom of this Bill.

What about the Judges? Suppose a Judge decides against someone and that person feels strongly about the decision and decides to take action against that Judge's decision what—

A Senator : You cannot sue a Judge.

Senator Asemota : Yes, I agree because they are representing the Crown, that is the only saving grace, but these Commissions are not representing the Crown. They represent the Government but not in the sense that

Ministers do. So I do not think their duties come within the protection which the Government now seeks to give them, because if these people are protected then the same should be applied to other statutory bodies which almost serve the same purpose. They should equally be protected.

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku : When I read this Bill something occurred to me as, for instance, the case of a man serving in the Civil Service finds that, for one reason or the other, certain disciplinary actions are taken against him and the matter is referred to the Public Service Commission, and the Commission feels that, for one reason or the other, the man should be dismissed or downgraded. Now the man, feeling aggrieved that there had been some sort of miscarriage of justice in the decision, takes the constitutional way of demonstrating by petitioning the Head of the Civil Service but the Head of the Civil Service upholds the decision of the Commission.

Under the Common Law when a man feels aggrieved for anything done to him, say, by his employer he can take action against them. If the court decides in his favour then he can claim damages for any wrongful action meted out to him. But what this particular Bill seeks to introduce is that a civil servant, if he is dismissed in a wrong manner and he petitions the Head of the Civil Service and fails to succeed, then whether he likes it or not, he must abide by the Commission's decision and cannot take court action against the Commission to seek a remedy. I would like further explanation on this before I make up my mind whether to support this Bill or not, because the point I have put forth is a crucial one.

I do agree that the fact that someone has got all the necessary qualifications and all sorts of things are of minor importance. When a man appears before a board for promotion and he is not selected for promotion that is of minor importance. But when it is a case of a man losing his own right as a citizen, and he feels that he has got all the relevant facts to support his argument, and he cannot proceed to seek a remedy, then it is of grave importance. I want further explanation before I give my support to this Bill.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari): I would like to intervene in this matter now to clarify the

position. The question of appointments to the Federal Public Service is not a right of anybody. It is for the Public Service Commission to decide whether or not a person should be appointed, and they are not bound in any way to explain what action they have taken. It is a matter of discretion by the Commission and nobody can raise any cry that he has not been given an appointment or that he has not been given a promotion.

In the case of dismissal, and as the Senator has pointed out, if a man is dismissed and he feels that that was a wrongful dismissal he can, of course, appeal but not to the court. He is entitled to appeal against such action, first, to the Prime Minister as Head of the Civil Service and, secondly, as Head of the Government. A person, if at all he wants to go to court, cannot possibly sue the Public Service Commission because, after all, the Commission is not his employer, his employer is the Federal Government. Therefore he can, if he wishes, take the Government to court, but he cannot take the Public Service Commission to court.

Minister of State (Chief the hon. H. Omo-Osagie): I think my hon. Colleague the Minister of Health, was a civil servant, and Senator Chief Beyioku was a civil servant, and I, myself, was also a civil servant for thirty years. Our President of the Senate was himself also a civil servant. We all know what the rules of the Civil Service are. There is nothing like 'a right' when it comes to the Civil Service. I was in the Civil Service and I am happy that the Minister of Internal Affairs has explained all that is involved in this case.

Senator A. E. Ukattah : On a point of order, we are talking of seeking redress as part of a citizen's right.

Minister of State : Yes, seeking redress not from the Public Service Commission but from the Government. Therefore, if one feels aggrieved and seeks a redress all that he has to do is to go to court. After all, we have heard of cases of people taking the Attorney-General or the Prime Minister to court.

A Senator : Then why not the Public Service Commission ?

Minister of State : As the agents of Government you cannot put them to court, but you can sue the Federal Government,

Senator Asemota : I must say that I cannot understand all that is involved. If these classes of people are exempted from court action, I do not see why the other people cannot be protected. The Minister of Internal Affairs has made it clear that these people are Government agents, and as Government agents if they fail to do credit in the sense that is expected of them, I think that whoever is aggrieved has a right to go to court to seek redress.

Minister of State : It seems to me that Senators are confusing issues. I have told the House that statutory bodies are quite distinct from these Commissions. All Boards are, more or less, commercial concerns, and in the instrument establishing them it will be seen that there is a clause that they can be sued and they can sue, but it is not so with the Public Service Commission. They cannot sue anybody and no one can sue them, it is the Attorney-General's business to sue.

The Chairman : Under Standing Orders Members can only speak once. Unless we come to the Committee Stage, therefore, I will not call Senators Asemota, Chief Beyioku, and Ukattah any further. I now call Senator Chief Acholonu to speak.

Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu : Thank you very much, Mr President. I am not standing to speak on this matter ; I only wish to call the two Senators on the other side of the House to order.

Coming to the point at issue I think that this is an indication of foresight on the part of the Government for trying to find ways of getting something to protect the interests of the Commissioners. I agree with the Minister who has covered every aspect of the argument, that the Statutory Boards are quite distinct from the Commissions—the Public Service Commission, the Judicial Service Commission and the Police Service Commission—which are entirely the direct agents of the Government.

In fact, it is obvious that if there is any offence committed by them or whether someone feels slighted or otherwise, everything will be taken care of departmentally. But engaging in a very long argument like this I do not think there is very good reason that we should remain here till the evening discussing this one point.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second time and immediately considered in Committee.

FEDERAL COMMISSIONS (PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES) BILL : CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE

Clause 1—(PROTECTION OF MEMBERS OF COMMISSIONS)

Senator Ukattah : I just want to put a question to the President in his capacity as a lawyer. If the Government can be sued, why cannot an agent of the Government be sued? I just want an explanation to that effect.

The Minister of Health (Chief the hon. M. A. Majekodunmi) : I do not think one can say really that these Commissions are Agents of the Government, because it will be seen that they are provided for in our Constitution and they are executive arms that were used in the old colonial days to be advisory to the Governor-General. But now they treat actions on matters relating to the Civil Service—matters concerning appointments, discipline and promotions—and their decisions are final. They do not even advise the Prime Minister and, as can be seen from our Constitution, their actions cannot be challenged, and I think it is necessary to protect them.

The Chairman : May I add also that the reason why they cannot be sued is the same reason why Members of Parliament cannot be sued. If we say anything about any one who is outside this House he cannot sue us. The reason then for the privilege is to let us have the freedom to speak as we like, and so these people could have the freedom of examining a man's character. They can say a man is a thief without the man being able to take them to court to sue for slander.

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota : What really worries me about this Clause is this. I think that about last year His Excellency made it perfectly clear in his Speech from the Throne that if anybody has anything to say about the Government he can go to court. If one is not satisfied one can put the Government to court. That is what His Excellency said in his Speech from the Throne. These Commissioners are agents of the Government, and if one can sue

the Government who holds the Commission why should the Commissioner become immune to court action ?

The Chairman : The very reason why Senators cannot be sued.

Senator Asemota : We are the Parliament. We make the law, and this, I think, is a different classification altogether. In the Parliament there is power. Parliament enacts laws, and Parliament asks for that sort of immunity, that anything said on the Floor of the House is covered. But this Commission can come to a wrong decision—

The Chairman : Now, you cannot sue a court or a lawyer.

Senator Asemota : Why can I not sue a lawyer ?

The Chairman : I am a lawyer, and I am telling you—

Senator Asemota : But if you do things which I am not satisfied with, if you receive my money and you do not pay me, what will happen ?

The Chairman : I mean that you cannot sue the lawyer for what he does inside the court. That is what I mean. I do not say that if a lawyer owes you ten pence you cannot sue him. The main thing is that these people are surrounded with privileges so that they can do their work without fear. That is the only reason.

Clause 1—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2—(PRIVILEGE OF DOCUMENTS).

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku : I cannot understand the Government Bench on this matter. One of the Ministers will say that the Federal Public Service Commission is an agent of the Commission. Another Minister will say that the Commission is not an agent of the Commission. I do not know whether the Ministers are reconciled on this issue. But I do appreciate the statement made by the Minister of Internal Affairs. I know too well that at one time he was the head of the Public Service Commission, and he knows everything.

Several Senators : He was never the head.

Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku : He was a Minister, and this Department was under

his Ministry as Minister of Establishments, and he happens to know much about this.

He has now given the assurance that Government can be sued where one feels that one has been wrongfully dismissed, and the Government as such can be sued. The point I want to make is that the real body which considers the dismissal of a man, whether that dismissal is wrongful or justified, is the Public Service Commission. It means that if I am dismissed from the service by the Public Service Commission, I cannot subpoena such record in the court of law.

The President : You can subpoena it, but if the Attorney-General says it is not in public interest to do this, then you cannot. That is what they say in the Bill.

Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku : It will always be in the public interest to be able to subpoena such reports.

Clause 2—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clauses 3 to 5—ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Bill reported, without Amendment.

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Bill be now read the Third time—(CHIEF H. OMO-OSAGIE).

Senator Chief A. O. Fagbenro-Beyioku : We have passed the Second Reading of this Bill, and I know that if it had not been a last moment Bill coming before this House, it would have been given another consideration. The fact is that nobody is fresh any longer and there is the anxiety to go home now—

Several Senators : No, no we are still very fresh.

Senator Chief Fagbenro-Beyioku : This is my opinion, Mr President, but as this Bill has been passed now, we look forward to—

Senator J. K. Nzerem : On a point of order, that is the Second Reading. The Second Reading has been passed.

The President : Yes the Second Reading of the Bill has been passed, but Senators are entitled to debate the Third Reading.

Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku : The Second Reading has been passed but we still look forward to the integrity and honesty of purpose of the members of our Public Service Com-

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mission and other Commissions. I am saying this now because what our civil service will be depends upon the frame of mind of these various Commissions. Nothing can give us a very good, highly intelligent and trust-worthy civil service other than the civil servants feeling satisfied and having confidence in the various Commissions. The mere fact that these various Commissions feel that they are immuned to any kind of civil action should not make them deviate from the course which they have been striving all along.

They must feel and continue to realise that the future of Nigeria depends upon their decision. Politicians apart, the people who actually rule the country are the civil servants because they carry out the order. And the way in which they carry out these orders is the way the country is run.

I am only appealing to the members of the various Commissions not to feel that now they are immune, they can do anything since nobody can question them by way of civil action in court.

I think that is all the observation I have to make on this Bill, and I beg to support.

Senator J. K. Nzerem : I rise to say on the Floor of the Senate that from my personal experience our various Commissions—the Public Service Commission, the Judicial Commission, the Police Commission and others—have played their part very creditably in determining the future of the Civil Service in this country.

I have myself been a member for five years and I can say without any fear of contradiction whatsoever that the members all along have been incorruptible, and they have shown very good sense in judging matters presented to them. It was then called the Central Public Service Board, and was the fore-runner of the Public Service Commission.

The Government is very careful in selecting the Members. The Commissioners are insulated from politics. I know most of the members of our present Commissions and they are all men of the highest integrity and I have no fear that insulating them from legal action is going to make them swollen headed. I am sure they will continue as they have done in the past to be fair to everybody, and to be honest in their dealings with members of the public service.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Third time, and passed.

POOL BETTING BILL

Order for Second Reading read.

The Minister of Internal Affairs (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari) : I rise to move, That a Bill for an Act to amend the Pool Betting Control Act, 1961, and to extend the application of the Act as amended in Northern and Eastern Nigeria respectively, and for other purposes connected therewith, be now read a Second time.

This Bill marks the end of the protracted negotiations which have been going on with the Regional Governments on the question of getting the Regions to agree on a Central Control of Pool Betting. Towards the end of 1961, the Western Regional Government indicated its intention to legislate on their own behalf, and as Senators are already aware, the Western Regional Government has since done so. And, no pool company can now operate in that Region without obtaining licence from the Western Regional Government.

The position in the North in 1961 was that the Regional Government would be content to empower the Federal Government to legislate on their behalf provided that pool betting business was entirely prohibited in the Northern Region, under such legislation. The Eastern Regional Government on the other hand indicated that they would empower the Federal Government to legislate on their behalf on the terms and conditions of the Pool Betting Regulations of 1959, and the Pool Betting Control Act of 1961.

Since then, it has been unnecessary to hold further consultations with these Regions, and I am happy to inform the senate that they have now passed the necessary Legislations to empower the Federal Government to Legislate on the central control of pool betting in those two Regions. Apart from the Western Region, there is no Legislation which provides for the control of the operations of pool betting firms and agents in the Eastern and Northern Regions.

Because of this fact, it has been impossible for me in Lagos to effectively control the pool betting business for these two Regions. Senators are well aware of the fact that there is

a large number of fraudulent and illegal pool operators and agents in the country whose sole purpose is to cheat and defraud stakers.

The Bill before the Senate will enable measures for effective control of the pool betting business in these Regions to be introduced. In addition, a pool inspectorate unit is to be set up in my Ministry and the main purpose will be to check the operations of pools houses and so bring to book fraudulent operators. This unit will be an addition to the assistance which my Ministry receives from the Nigerian Police in tracking illegal and fraudulent operators. It will also be necessary to take this opportunity in the interest of better pool betting control, to amend the 1961 Act, provided advertisements relating to pools betting should not be published unless they are certified by some persons authorised in writing to do so by me.

The purpose of this Amendment is to ensure that fraudulent advertisements are not published in respect of any pools house with a view to boost up their prestige and so fraudulently effect more customers.

This Bill is a short one and is really non-controversial and non-contentious. May I go briefly over the clauses.

Clause 1 of the Bill provides that no advertisements relating to pool betting will be published unless such advertisements are certified by someone who is authorised to do so by me.

Clause 2 of the Bill extends the application of the Federal Pool Betting Control Act, 1961 to the two Regions, in accordance with the agreement reached with these Regions.

Sir, I beg to move.

The Minister of State (Chief the hon. H. Omo-Osagie) : Sir, I beg to second.

Senator J. K. Nzerem : This is a very good piece of legislation, but I would like the Minister to tell this Senate if officials of his Ministry will be able to deal effectively with the pool houses in Lagos, because as one drives through the streets of Lagos one finds that nearly every house is a pool office. Are these pool houses in Lagos not fraudulent? The Government is to take upon itself to cover the whole of Eastern or Northern Region, or is it going to be a paper legislation?

I want to be assured that they are taking good care of pool betting in Lagos before they can take on to themselves the extra responsibility of looking after the Eastern and Northern Regions.

Senator P. A. Ogundipe : Any legislation on pool betting in this country is very welcome if it will be efficiently pursued. I have a few remarks to make on this Bill. Pool betting has led to so much inefficiency and avarice in this country that this Senate should welcome any legislation on it and should ask the Minister of Internal Affairs to think of what could be done further in order to prevent civil servants who, instead of doing their work during office hours spend all the time filling coupons.

During one of my visit to the Ministries in the Western Region—I am only giving this as an example—I found that Executive Officers and even people who are nearing the post of Permanent Secretary still fill coupons simply because they want a lot of money by all means. The danger in this is that people do not work for the money they are paid. They are always thinking of some other means of getting £70,000 so that they can become millionaires—

The President : People do not become millionaires on £70,000.

Senator Ogundipe : I am really supporting the view of the Senator who spoke last that if the Minister of Internal Affairs will legislate, all efforts should be made to see that the legislation is pursued and not made just a piece of paper work. If possible it should be provided in the legislation in future to prevent people leaving their work and trying to fill coupons during the office hours.

I support the Bill.

Senator S. Eytayo : I rise to support this Bill. Of course, I am not a pool bettor and I do not like pool betting, whether it be in the form of lottery or racing, or football betting. But there is an adage which says, "Of two evils one is better". That is why I am supporting the view that if there is pool betting anywhere in the country it should be controlled by the Government. The Government has taken a right decision in bringing this Bill to this Senate now, and I agree that if this Bill is to be executed, the Government

[SENATOR EYITAYO]
should try and see that proper arrangement is made so that pool betting may be controlled in all the Regions.

Whereupon Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku 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.

Original 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—(THE MINISTER OF HEALTH).

REPUBLIC

Senator Chief O. A. Fagbenro-Beyioku: I know that most of our Motions are still standing on the Order Paper. We want to keep our words, so we are adjourning. But I hope we will debate them at the next Session.

I want to refer to a Statement contained in the *Hansard* of the House of Representatives relating to the question of Nigeria becoming a Republic on the 1st of October, 1963. The news as we all know has come with the greatest satisfaction to every Nigerian; and all I want to do this afternoon is to refer to it, because Ministerial statements are not debated. I am not attempting to open a debate on the very sound statement made by our Prime Minister. Rather I want to compliment our Prime Minister and to let him know how very satisfied the whole nation is with the statement he made.

The Prime Minister is a man of his word and he continues to live to every assurance he gives this nation. I feel that for many years to come it will be very difficult for Nigeria to have a Prime Minister of the calibre of the present Prime Minister, Alhaji the Rt. hon. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, to steer the ship of State. We also have to thank our Governor-General the Rt. hon. Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe for the co-operation between himself and the Prime Minister in making this great statement affecting the status of Nigeria on the 1st of October, 1963.

I want to assure both the Governor-General and the Prime Minister that Nigeria is ready

for it. We are all conscious of the fact that there may be some constituent assembly, and perhaps Members of the Senate at that time may become life Members of the Senate. As far as I am concerned, I may be going to the small boys' House because I may find it more interesting. But whatever happens—

The President: Is Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku saying that the Senate is not interesting?

Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku: The Senate is more interesting to me than any other place. I find it very interesting. But I do not know what will be the call of the nation on me when the time comes. All I am trying to do is to let the Leader of the House and all the Members of the Cabinet here present, let the Prime Minister know how very happy we the Members of the Senate are about that statement, and we want to assure him and the Governor-General that as far as we are concerned, whatever influence we have on the people of this country, the entire people of this country will continue to look forward to them to lead the country to that stage of perfection which we continue to aim at.

May God bless the two of them. We wish this to be conveyed to them.

ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN

Senator Dahlton O. Asemota: We all know the rate at which we are going in the development of this country, and also what we have achieved so far. But I think it is time the Government considered setting up a zoological garden in Nigeria. We have different kinds of animals in the forest that are being killed, and unless we do something to protect them, we will find that they will soon be extinct.

Some of us who have travelled overseas saw in the different zoological gardens in different parts of the world various types of animals some of which are said to have come from Africa, but we who live in the very heart of Africa—in the greatest country of Africa, do not see these animals ourselves.

In the London Zoo, there are tigers, lions, and all sorts of animals and reptiles, but I very much doubt how many of us have actually seen a crocodile, apart from those who live near the rivers. So, I think the time is overdue that the Government should give consideration to establishing a zoological garden in Nigeria,

so that steps should be taken to collect as many of our existing animals as possible and keep them in the zoo.

This will interest our tourists very much indeed. I doubt if they have not already started asking to see the Nigerian zoo.

The other matter I would like to raise is the question of the Nigeria Police Report. The 1961 Report has just been published and it has been given to us. Last time, we raised the point that something should be done to speed this up. Most of the information there is stale and cannot be relied upon. So, I am appealing to the Government to see to it that the report is made more interesting by publishing it as early as possible.

The other thing I would like to talk about is my happiness about His Excellency the Governor-General's current visit to the Western Region during which he will tour the Mid-West area. I am particularly happy about this because I know his Excellency is a Mid-Westerner himself. He is visiting his ancestral home.

I can tell you, Sir, that the people of Onitsha migrated from a place called Idumoza in Benin. The people of Benin and the people of the Mid-West will certainly give His Excellency a very warm welcome.

Senator Chief H. N. Udoh : The last speaker seems to claim that everything good came from Benin. *(Laughter)*.

Senator Asemota : I am glad to say that because I think everybody here will agree that Benin is about the oldest place in Nigeria. It is about; I do not say it is the oldest.

Senator P. A. Ogunidipe : An historian, Mr Johnson, in his writing said that Ife is the cradle of human beings. Senator Asemota is now making Benin the cradle of humanity.

The President : That is the difference between Yoruba and Benin mythology. *(Laughter)*.

Senator Asemota : As I was saying, I can assure his Excellency that a double reception is waiting for him there, as a Governor-General and as a son of the Mid-West.

I would like to ask the President and the Senators that at every sitting of the Senate, one day should be set aside for the Members of the Senate to go round offices. I do not

know where the Ministry of Health is, neither do I know where the Ministry of Finance or the Ministry of Communications is. We do not know where most of the offices are because we have not got enough time for going round. I hope that at every sitting of the Senate, at least one day in the week will be set aside for Senators to go round to know these places and industrial establishments that are being set up in the country. I think it is a good thing for us to see these places so that we will be able to know them and talk about them.

The President : If you are raising a point of this nature, you should give notice. You have not given any notice. The other thing I have to point out is that it is against the Standing Orders if we start to debate any matter that is coming before the House in anticipation. The matter I have in mind is the question of the Republic. A White Paper is coming and therefore I will not allow a debate on the matter. It will be out of order.

Senator P. A. Ogunidipe : I will try to expatiate further on a point that has been raised by the last speaker, Senator Asemota. Senators will remember that when he was speaking about arrangements for Senators to be able to know more of Lagos, there were cheers all through the House. It is true people like Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku, Senator Hunponu-Wusu are living in Lagos. They know everything about the Nigerian Ports Authority, the Nigerian Railway Corporation, the industrial developments, and so on; but we who come from the provinces—

Senator Fagbenro-Beyioku : I think that Senators will agree that we have taken a decision on this matter. Any Senator who wants to visit any place should so indicate to the Clerk of the Parliaments who makes arrangements. This is about the third time.

The President : The trouble is that Senators want to run away when there is a break. When we finish part of the House, and we were going on break you should have given one day for seeing things in Lagos.

Senator A. E. Ukattah : Most of our Senators do not know what a crocodile is. The way my Motion has been handled is not satisfactory.

The President : The Senator is entirely out of order. He did not give any notice on this matter. Besides, he is going back. At one time, he said he was not going to raise the point, at another, he said he would move the Motion. This morning, he said he would not, and this afternoon, he wants to move it. Why not let us make up our minds ?

Senator Ukattah : May I speak now Sir.

The President : You are ruled out of order.

Senator Chief J. S. Olayeye : What I want to say is very short. I would like to invite the attention of the Minister concerned with our flats at the Victoria Island to the activities of thieves there. They steal our property. I remember the day before yesterday my son—

The President : Order, order. Much as I do not want to interrupt too often, Senator Chief Olayeye did not give notice of this matter and, therefore, no Minister will be prepared to answer him. After he may have spoken, it would all amount to wasted time. If he gave notice, a Minister would have been able to answer, so the Senator is ruled out of order.

Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu : I do not know whether I shall be ruled out of order, but I would like to say—

The President : It is a simple rule of convenience. Send in a piece of paper like Senator Asemota and Chief Beyioku did, one to me and one to the Ministerial Bench (the Leader of the Senate), then when the Senator has talked, somebody will answer him. But if he talks from now till six o'clock, no Minister will answer because the Senator did not give the necessary notice.

Senator Chief Acholonu : My point is just to support what Senator Chief Olayeye said. Last Saturday evening we went to Chief Beyioku's house to celebrate his birthday—

The President : Order, order. I have got no notice of that.

The Minister of Health : I just want, once again, to repeat the decision which I have already explained to the Members of the Senate on a previous occasion, and recently on Saturday, that if any Member wishes to visit any Government institution, commercial undertaking, industrial installations, and so forth, in the Federal Territory, such a Member should let us know and we shall be very happy to arrange the visit. But unfortunately, as soon as we rise now Senators will disappear and then they come back next sitting to complain that arrangements have not been made for them to visit these Government offices.

I would like it recorded that this decision is still valid and to say, come down and see what we are doing in the Post Offices, in the Hospitals, *et cetera*. I think it would be very good for Senators to know how the Government is spending their money. It would be good also for the country, and many of them would be able to criticise the Government with some enlightenment when the Estimates come to be debated.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Senate do now adjourn *sine die* pursuant to the Resolution of the Senate This Day.

Adjourned accordingly at twelve minutes past four o'clock.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

FIRST PARLIAMENT

FOURTH SESSION

1963-64

SENATE

Monday, 3rd June, 1963

LAGOS

THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, PRINTING DIVISION

THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, PRINTING DIVISION

LACOS

Monday, 31st June, 1963

SENATE

1963-64

FOURTH SESSION

FIRST PARLIAMENT

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

SENATE OF THE FEDERATION
OF NIGERIA

Monday, 3rd June, 1963

The Senate met at 10.00 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The President in the Chair)

DEATH OF A MEMBER

The President : Senators, I regret to have to inform you of the death of Senator Dahlton O. Asemota, Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, and I desire, on behalf of the Senate, to express the irreparable loss we have thus sustained and our sympathy to the relatives of the deceased Senator.

I wish, also, to inform Senators that on their behalf I caused a wreath to be laid on the coffin when his remains were being removed to Benin City, and I asked Senator Nzerem to be at the grave side at Benin City.

Minister of State (Senator Dr the hon. E. A. Esin) : This Senate solemnly mourns the untimely death of Senator Asemota. All Senators clearly remember his honourable contributions here in this Senate. We do appreciate greatly also the necessary steps which the President took to arrange the laying of a wreath on behalf of the Senate and to express our heartfelt sympathy to his family.

May his soul rest in peace.

Senator A. Nwoke : I was greatly shocked to hear of the death of Senator Asemota. He was both my neighbour in the LegCo block of flats where I am quartered and on the Bench where I sit in the Senate. I, therefore, feel his loss more than anybody else, as I now have his Debates here with me.

He was a real Senator, and did justice all over the Federation. He was interested in the debates here and in all things happening everywhere in the Regions, and I can back this up by the way and manner in which he contributed to matters of national colour.

We have lost somebody in the Senate. As a matter of fact, there is not much that I can say which, in a short time, Senators will not begin to feel as a result of the loss of his activities on the Floor of this House. He was really a noble man and a good fighter, particularly in the battle for the creation of the Mid-West State.

On my way to this place last Saturday, I called to see his people at Benin City, and they are all very well. I have got to associate myself with the Minister of State, Dr Esin, in expressing our appreciation of the way and manner in which the President had, on our behalf, arranged things to give this noble Senator our last honour

May his soul rest in peace.

Senator Chief S. T. Hunponu-Wusu : I rise with a great feeling this morning—

The President : Will Senators please raise their voices for the benefit of the Official Reporters and the Press.

Senator Chief Hunponu-Wusu : I rise with a great feeling this morning to express great condolence to the family of our beloved Senator Dahlton Asemota who had passed away from amongst us.

It was an incident that I had never witnessed before, which happened in my shop. Our Senator Asemota came to me that afternoon with a prescription from his doctor. After greetings and usual conversation in my office, I sent for my dispenser. After a while, Senator Asemota called my attention to the fact that my office was not cool enough, and I asked my office boy to put on the office fan. Not quite long afterwards the dispenser, Mr Johnson, came into my office and I introduced him to Senator Asemota. I jokingly went far to introduce him as a future President, or Speaker, or Premier of the proposed Mid-West State. The dispenser later went with the prescription, and I then had a telephone call. As I was thus on the telephone, his driver came to me trembling and directing my attention to his master. Seeing the awful situation, I immediately dropped the telephone and rushed to the place. The dispenser and I, along with his driver, did all we could, and, finding that we could not do more to help him, we rushed him to the emergency hospital. In the hospital the doctor examined him but discovered that there was no life in him again. I immediately requested the driver to go for the Senator's wife, but at last we all made for his flat together. When we got to the Senator's flat we could not find his wife, and we were told that she had gone to Obalende. When we all got to Obalende, again the wife was not there. Then I requested that the driver should take us to any relation of the Senator, and from there we started making arrangements.

[SENATOR CHIEF HUNPONU-WUSU]

Our thanks are due to the President for the active part he played in this matter. The President and the Clerk of the Parliaments made arrangements on behalf of the Senate, and I was asked to place a wreath on the Senator's coffin when the plane was about to move. Our thanks are due very much to the active part played by our President as well as the Clerk of the Parliaments.

May his soul rest in peace.

Senator H. O. Abaagu : I have not much to say in memory of Senator Asemota. What I would like to suggest is to ask the Senate to observe a two-minute silence in his memory.

Senator Salahu Fulani : We are greatly shocked to learn about the death of our Senator Dahilton Asemota. I was in my sitting-room when I heard that the Senator had died, and I regretted that such a man who was hale and hearty a couple of days ago should have died so suddenly. I was there in company of the President to express my deepest sympathy to the family.

Senator Chief R. A. Umoh : I rise to associate myself with the sympathy expressed by the Senators who have just spoken on the issue. As a matter of fact, we all noticed that the late Senator Asemota was a very sincere man, a supreme father, a father in the real sense of the word. He was not only interested in the affairs of the Mid-West but also in everything that affected Nigeria as a whole. As death has taken him away from our midst, we mourn his remembrance and memory. I call on God to have mercy on him and, according to His tender mercies, to blot out all his iniquities. As it pleased the Lord to bring him into our midst, the midst of the fathers of the land it should also please the Lord to leave him in the midst of his great men in Heaven. He is the Protector of our life and we have nothing to fear. We ask Him to protect the family of Asemota. The late Senator Asemota has a very large family of more than 17 children. I happened to see his family, and just as he was interested in the affairs of the country, he was equally interested in the affairs of his family. He could phone them more than ten times a day. If you ask the telephone operators they will tell you that. That shows the interest he had for his family. May God protect his family, and may his soul rest in peace.

Senator Chief (Mrs) Wuraola A. Esan : I rise to associate myself with others who have expressed their sympathy for the death of the late Senator Asemota. We shall miss him greatly in this House. He was a candid debater. He did not mind to say out his mind. We shall also miss his sense of humour whenever we speak about the Benin-Shagamu road. We shall, of course, miss the humour of the late Asemota when discussing this subject.

I was shocked when I heard of the death of Senator Asemota. I had the opportunity of knowing that even when the late Asemota was discussing things with us here, discussing gallantly and humorously, participating in debates, he knew very well that he was a dying man, but still he continued to the last. When he went to buy the drug, he knew his heart was shaking, but he went gallantly and met his death, smiling. Not many of us could do this in life. It is a lesson to us that whatever we are doing we should do it well. The late Senator Asemota had played a good part indeed in this House. If all of us take our time and play our part well, we shall leave this world—which we are bound to leave one day—doing the best we can for it as well as for ourselves and meeting death courageously and smiling. We would be very happy people. This is a lesson to us to try our best wherever we are. I pray that his daughter who has been trying hard would be comforted and that she may not have any setback by the death of her father.

May his soul rest in peace.

Senator T. Olamijulo : Much has been said about the late Asemota, and all in his praise. Nobody has said anything against him. I think the same should be true of him in Heaven. One who does his work very well and conscientiously, as the late Senator Asemota did, I am sure will receive the grace of God. As such, I am moving, if Senators will agree with me, that for such a man we should have something in the form of a contribution, however small, to present either to the wife or to the family. I am moving that this be done.

Senator Chief T. A. Odotola : I knew the late Asemota for some time and admired him. I heard of his death with a surprise. I hardly believed that Senator Asemota, with his physical strength and the way he behaved,

would die just like that. But this is a strange world, where nobody knows when death would come and how it would come. The late Senator Asemota has got no enemy in this House. He was a friend to all Members of the House, irrespective of creed or religion or party feeling. His death is not a loss to this House alone, it is a great loss to the whole country as well. As some Members have already said, his interest was not only for his family, but for the whole country. There was no part of the country in which Asemota was not interested if that area came for discussion in this House.

It is very pleasing indeed that the President had taken the right step and, apart from thanking him, we would like to say how very worried we all are about the death of Senator Asemota. The President himself will be affected because we all know the way and the high esteem in which he held Asemota.

The Senator who spoke last said that if it would be agreed by the Members of this House that something be done to mark our deep concern about the death of Senator Asemota, he would be very pleased to move such a Motion. It is really a very necessary thing. We want any of us to go like that and I think Senator Asemota went away in true service. I think, with the respect of the President and of this House, I agree with the suggestion of the previous speaker. We on our own should contribute something or do something for his family that will mark our respect for him.

I ask the President to convey to the members of the family of the late Asemota our deep sympathy. May his soul rest in peace.

Senator Dr A. A. N. Orizu : We all appear to be mourning the death of the gallant and faithful soldier of our country. But the fact remains that death is a challenge to everybody. It is something that reminds all of us of the path which we must all go, sooner or later. That being so, the death of a gallant man like Dahlton Asemota is something that should remind us of what we should all be doing now. To me, it does not constitute an item for mourning alone, but also an item which reminds us to ask ourselves some basic fundamental questions: What is our contribution to our country? What are we doing now to the area from which we emanated? We are now mourning Asemota because of his contribution to the Mid-West area. We all know what he

had been doing to the Mid-West as regards the creation of a new region in this country. We all know how hard he was working, how straightforward he was, how responsible to his family he was, how bent he was to train his children. All these things constitute a challenge to all of us. As Senators, are we dispensing our political duties to our country? Are we being straightforward and hardworking to the benefit of everybody around us?

Dahlton Asemota was a good friend of mine. I had listened to him speak about the future of this country. I think that you, Mr President, have a great deal to mourn in him, because you have lost in your area of the Mid-West a gallant soldier who would have helped you to complete the job already begun. I noticed that our President here was moved when a Senator narrated the transaction he had with the late Asemota. He was moved out of his gear. But I want to remind him that he now has a duty to perform, in going back to that area and bringing for us another Asemota! And with this man let them carry on with the work of the Mid-West.

I support that we should do something in memory of Asemota. After all, it is said that what one does for the dead one is doing for oneself. What we may do in memory of Asemota may be what may be done to any of us here to-day any time. It does not need much oration. Who would have imagined that a man of that nature would collapse and die as Asemota did?

Senator Hassan Rafindadi : The death of Dahlton Asemota is indeed a big loss not only to his family, but to the whole country. In the death of Dahlton Asemota this country has lost a worthy son. He had contributed immensely to the parliamentary debate in this Senate. He was a foresighted speaker and an exponent of truth and justice. He has left a mark which will always be remembered in this Senate. We express deeply-felt sympathy to his family and pray that his soul may rest in peace.

Senator Chief S. O. Esangbedo : I want to make only a little contribution about Dahlton Asemota. I will not say much about him because, if I do, I will go on speaking for the whole day and will not exhaust my stuff of what I know of him. I knew him from his childhood, when he was in standard six, and

[SENATOR OBA ADENIJI ADELE II]
in this Senate. All I have to say now is to associate myself with all the Senators who have said good things about Senator Asemota.

Before I take my seat, I would also like to support those Senators who have suggested that something great should be done in memory of the late Dahlton Asemota. Senator Asemota has done a lot for this country. He has done so many things that many other Senators have never done, not only for this Senate, but also for the Mid-West, and I sincerely associate myself with the suggestion that something should be done to mark his memory. I also feel that all we have to do now is to convey our condolence to his family.

Senator Chief P. C. Ndu : Senator Asemota is dead and we have lost a great man. He had contributed very lively to the debates on many occasions on the Floor of this Senate. He was so good and sociable that anybody who had ever come in contact with him would be able to give a good testimony of him. It is indeed a fact that the vacuum that his death has created will be very difficult to fill. He has left us at a time when his services are most required. Nobody will forget the contributions he had made to debates on the Floor of this Senate about the Benin-Shagamu road. The contribution was so much that any time he got up to speak people used to murmur between themselves that he was going to speak about Benin-Shagamu road, and people would always laugh.

However, I am taking this opportunity to congratulate those who actually took part in seeing to it that he was removed to Benin where he was buried. Many people who heard of his death did not believe it. I did not believe it myself until I read of it in the newspapers. During the last Session when he was with us here, he knew that he was dying, but did not die until he had completed his work. He saw to it that he did his best during the last Budget Session, and on our last day here he did all he could. I associate myself with those who said that some minutes of silence should be observed in honour of his memory, and also that we should contribute some money either to give his family or to do something in honour of his memory.

No amount of words will be too much in praise of Senator Asemota and our sense of loss by his death cannot be over-emphasised. He was a great man. The loss is not only for this Senate but also for the entire Federation of Nigeria. I am sorry that we have lost him.

Senator Abubakar Bale : I rise to express my sincere sympathy for the family of our late Dahlton Asemota. His death was a shock to all of us. When last we saw him here in this Senate nobody knew that he would die so soon. We were all playing here with him, and later on we heard that he had died. He is dead as every human being will die. But what matters in a death—as one Senator has said—is what happens after the expiration of life. As we are all here now, nobody can say anything against this gentleman. I have nothing to say against him, because I used to call him in this Senate “a boy among men”. That was how I took him, and that was how he was to everybody. It is not what people say about a man when he is living that matters, but what people say about him when he is dead. That is the time when a person's goodness is known.

I thank the President for what he did on our behalf when he heard of the sudden death, and I also thank Senator Chief Hunponu-Wusu for what he said he did before the man died. He said that he had never witnessed such a death before : I think this will be a lesson not only to him but to all of us. When a man is living, he should try to live well so that people can say something good after he has died. We are not saying all these things for fun. We are saying them in order to reflect the true picture of our deceased brother, Senator Asemota. It is quite natural that we should remember him. Any human being who has contributed something towards the progress of his country must be remembered after his life. And so, we all remember Senator Dahlton Asemota now.

May his soul rest in peace.

Senator Abdul Salami Yusifu : I rise to pay tribute to the memory of our deceased comrade, Senator Asemota. We all have to think of him for all that he did during his life time. It is really not surprising that many Senators have expressed their deep sympathy for the loss which we have sustained. Most of what I would have wished to say have already been said by other Senators.

I knew the late Senator as far back as 1940, when he was the U.A.C. Manager in my area. In fact, he was very very kind and sociable with everybody, and I am sure that when he left the place the people felt his absence very greatly, because he was very helpful to all the people. In fact, he did more than any of his predecessors.

At any rate, I do not think there is any gap left for me to fill regarding the speeches which have been made by Senators. I therefore only have to say: May his soul rest in peace and may his children try to keep his memory alive by continuing the very good work which Senator Asemota did during his life time.

Senator M. A. Greene: I was very sorry indeed when I heard of the death of Senator Asemota. It was very surprising because we heard of his death two or three days after the end of the Budget Session. When I heard of it, I sent a telegram to the President of the Senate asking him to convey my very sincere sympathy to the relatives of the deceased Senator.

I am not going to waste the time of the Senate. I only wish to endorse what the previous Senators have said about the late Senator Asemota and, at the same time, ask the President to convey our condolence to the family and relatives of the deceased.

May his soul rest in peace.

The President: Order, order. I think it is the wish of the Senate that we stand up in silence for two minutes as a mark of respect to our departed Senator Dahlton Asemota.

The Senate rose for two minutes.

NOTICE OF MOTION

AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION OF WESTERN NIGERIA

Minister of State (Senator Alhaji the hon. Nuhu Bamali): I rise to move—

That, in accordance with the provision of section five subsection (4) of the Constitution of the Federation, this House signifies its consent to the Constitution of Western Nigeria (Amendment) Law, 1963, having effect.

In moving this Motion, I wish to explain, very briefly, the background to the Federal Government's decision to support the Constitution of Western Nigeria (Amendment) Law, 1963.

Senators are all aware of the recent opinion of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in the *Adegbenro v. Akintola* Appeal. The difficulty felt in accepting that opinion is due in large part to the fact that it has been largely overtaken by events which have happened since the judgment of the Federal Supreme Court about twelve months ago. You will remember that the then Governor of Western Nigeria purported to act upon a letter addressed to him

allegedly by some 66 Members of the House of Assembly of Western Nigeria, saying that they no longer supported the then Premier, Chief Akintola. But we know that both before and since the opinion of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the Western Regional House of Assembly had passed not less than three successive Motions of complete confidence in the Premiership of Chief Akintola by votes ranging between 79 and 83 out of a possible total of 124. These figures, compared with the 66 claimed by the Action Group, clearly demonstrate the unwisdom and, indeed, the inequity of the Governor acting upon such a doubtful source of information.

Again, since the opinion of the Federal Supreme Court was delivered last year, the Queen had seen fit to act on the advice of Premier Akintola at the end of last year, as a result of which Chief Joseph Fadahunsi (as he then was) had been appointed by Her Majesty the Queen as the Governor of Western Nigeria with effect from January 1, 1963, although the Queen was aware at the material time that Alhaji Adegbenro's Appeal was pending before Her Majesty's Privy Council. It must also be pointed out that, following the Coker Commission of Inquiry into Six Statutory Corporations in Western Nigeria, the Federal Government had entrusted the post-emergency Akintola Government with the task of implementing that Report, which clearly established that the revenue of the Region had been misappropriated by the Action Group and most of its leaders. The process of bringing the culprits to book, and so returning the Region to normal, democratic government, is now fairly well advanced.

In these circumstances, the Federal Government thought it both necessary and right that its full support should be given to the Constitution of Western Nigeria (Amendment) Law, 1963 as the best way of assuring to that Region the stable government of which it has been deprived by recent upheavals.

Furthermore, the implications of the opinion of the Judicial Committee will be seen to be unacceptable to all decent men and women who wish to see democracy flourish in this young nation.

It seems a little odd that it should have been held that the Governor of a Region of the Federation of Nigeria can properly exercise

[SENATOR LAGUNJU]

make Britain aggrieved against this country. Consequently, the British people will like to show the world that we are not yet ripe for self-government, but by this step taken by the Federal Government, it is trying to show the world that we are ripe for self-government and that, other things being equal, we are in a position to manage our own affairs.

Another important thing is that by ratifying this Amendment, the Federal Government is doing all in her power to prevent the Western Region from falling into confusion and a very bad financial position.

As the Mover of the Motion has pointed out, it is necessary for expropriators to be expropriated. If some people have mismanaged and have used public funds for personal gratification, it is thought necessary to make these people pay, otherwise the Coker Commission of Inquiry is of no use. In the light of what I have said above, I am sure all the Senators will agree with me that the ratification of this Amendment is really welcome, and I congratulate the Federal Government.

Thank you.

Sitting suspended : 11.25 a.m.

Sitting resumed : 12.10 p.m.

Senator S. Eyitayo : I rise to support the Motion for an amendment to the Constitution of Western Nigeria, as was moved by Senator Nuhu Bamali. In doing so, I am fully conscious of the fact that I am a Westerner. As such, it is a bounden duty on me in the interest of the Region to fight tooth and nail for anything that will make for peace, law and order in the Government of that Region.

We have all been living witnesses to the chaos, unrest and instability that had been reigning in the Region for the past one year. It will be an act of insanity for anyone to allow such a deplorable situation to continue. It is the removal of this deplorable condition that this Motion seeks to achieve. It is only an unpatriotic person that will subscribe to the idea that chaos and disorder should continue to reign in the West.

We all know the fact of what has brought about this Amendment—that is the decision by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London, that the ex-Governor of Western Nigeria was right in removing Chief S. L.

Akintola from the Premiership of the Region on the unpardonable basis of an outside influence. I am not a lawyer, but a layman with common-sense and good judgment. How on earth a Premier of a Region can be removed from office as Premier by a Governor without a Motion which commands the majority of the Members of the House of Assembly is a thing which, like the peace of God, passeth all understanding. If there has been any loophole in the Constitution which makes such an interpretation possible, it is that loophole that we meet here to remove now. I am, therefore, confident that anyone who likes to see peace, order and good government restored to the Western Region will not hesitate to support this Motion that has been brought up to-day.

I would like to congratulate our Prime Minister on his prompt action which, if not taken, might have led to another state of unrest and chaos in the Federation. I have read in the press of late of a proposed attempt to bomb some modern buildings at Ibadan. Even lately at Mushin near Lagos, there was an attempt by members of a certain political party to damage people's properties. If this law is not made at this time, I think that such a deplorable situation will continue to exist in the Region.

As I have already said, it is in order to make the West Regional Government a stable one, free from molestation, that we have now gathered here to-day to pass this Motion. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support the stand of the Federal Government, and support this Motion.

The Minister of Information (Hon. T. O. S. Benson) : This Parliament of ours, that is, the Legislature, one of the three arms of the Government of the Federation of Nigeria, like the British Parliament, is indeed supreme in all matters within its legislative competence, and within that legislative supremacy this Parliament can make and unmake laws. Constitutional writers have often said that Parliament can, by legislation, turn a man into a woman and, with due deference to Senator Chief (Mrs) Wuraola Esan, a woman into a man.

It is true that the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council is in effect the highest Court on this land, and we are not here to sit as a court of appeal over the judgments of that Committee. But there comes a stage when conflicting interests have to be resolved, and it seems to me that that was the stage when the Legislature

and positively not arrogant internationally, and which has every sense of balance—if that

Committee of the Privy Council too felt that the signatures were enough, and gave their

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of Western Nigeria considered it necessary to pass the Constitution of Western Nigeria (Amendment) Law, 1963.

What the Government of Western Nigeria has done by passing this enactment, and what this Parliament is being called upon to do by giving approval to what has been done by that Government, is by no means without precedent. We have heard of a Canadian precedent; but, to my mind, a far convincing precedent is that which was done by the British Government, only very recently, in connection with an Act of the Gambian Legislature which was passed in order to validate another enactment which had earlier been declared invalid by the West African Court of Appeal. The issues involved in our case are, with the greatest respect, more pressing, more important and, indeed, of a much more delicate nature. As the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister has rightly pointed out, the matters for consideration are those of the unity of Nigeria, stability in the Region which has been much afflicted of late, and the general well-being of the State as a whole. It is, therefore, with a very high sense of duty and responsibility that I implore Senators to support this Motion.

This country believes in, as well as practises, the Rule of Law. Nigeria is reputed to be a country which respects the rule of law. We are not here to resolve all the legal issues which properly belong to courts of law. What we are here to do is what is expedient for stability and for peace, order and good government in this country, and I feel certain that there is no one in this Senate who prefers another state of emergency to stable government in Western Nigeria.

As I understand it, that learned body—the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council—is still the highest judicial body in respect of this country. Let it not be understood, therefore, that the passage of this Motion will detract from the judicial authority of the Privy Council. The legislature of the Western Region of Nigeria, by passing the Constitution of Western Nigeria (Amendment) Law, 1963, did no more than to act within its legislative competence and its legislative supremacy. We of this Senate, by approving that Law, will be acting within our legislative supremacy and doing so

too with a very high sense of duty and responsibility in the highest interest of this our beloved country.

I support the Motion.

Senator H. O. Abaagu: We need not belabour this issue. This is an Amendment to the Constitution of Western Nigeria initiated by the Western Region Legislature, and it is now before us for ratification. As the Mover of the Motion said, the Amendment to the Constitution is not a new thing, and he cited several instances to prove the good intentions of this Motion.

The only observation that I want to make is on Clause 3 of the Law. With your permission, Mr President, I quote the relevant portion—

“...unless it appears to him”, a comma and the words “in consequence of the passing of a resolution in the House of Assembly by a majority of the members of that House,”

The words that attract my attention there are—

“by a majority of the members of that House”.

I feel it should be stated specifically there that the resolution should be passed by two-thirds of the members of the House of Assembly. I am making this point because some people who are very ambitious for political power can easily turn the members of the House into a marketable commodity. Some ambitious politicians can give money to some politicians and get them to pass a resolution asking the Governor to remove the Premier, but I am sure nobody can buy two-thirds of the members of the House. I think that the Government should look into this Clause 3 and say, “by two-thirds of the members of that House”.

I beg to support.

Senator Muhammadu Sani Dingyadi:

It is the responsibility of this Senate to see that any legislation that is in the best interest of any Region of the Federation is approved, and that any legislation which is not in the best interest of any Region is rejected. I do not wish to quarrel with the decision of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council but, at the same time, I think that it lacks wisdom and foresight. We all know that the normal way in which Parliamentarians express their consent to any Bill or Motion is by voting,

[SENATOR DR ORIZU]

somehow on the common law system. That is what obtains in Canada, Australia, India, Ceylon and several other places.

If we want all these people to respect us, we Members of this Upper House should follow the path of truth and dignity, and we, as elders of the nation, should safeguard the sovereignty of Nigeria based on dignity and respect for the rule of law.

Senator Chief (Mrs) Wuraola Esan : Mr President, I am a greatly embarrassed person this morning and I will tell you and the Senate why. As the only woman in this Upper House, I have a duty to perform on behalf of other women in this great country. As a matter of fact, I was sent to the Senate by the Government of the Western Region at the time the Action Group was controlling the Region, but, as a Member of this Upper House, I consider myself responsible to the country and, therefore a measure of co-operation should come from me towards the Government of the Region now. That is why I said earlier on that I am a greatly embarrassed person.

Furthermore, because I belong to the Western Region and because I am, by the Grace of God, the only woman here, I would like to say, in support of the Western Region Government, that there is nothing wrong with the Amendment passed by the Regional Legislature. (*Applause*).

Be that as it may, I have some bones of contention in regard to the passing of the Bill. Firstly, it was brought up at a wrong time. When a mistake has been made, I think we must all be bold enough to admit it. In this country, we must, of course, have peace, progress and unity. That is certain. We are a young nation and we must make mistakes, and when these mistakes have been made, we must make sure that we correct them. As I said, the Bill was brought at a wrong time because if it had been passed before the ruling of the Privy Council, I would gladly have welcomed it. That is my own personal view.

Secondly, I think it is time a revision of our present Constitution is done thoroughly, and this Motion which seeks to ratify the Amendment of the Constitution of Western Nigeria should be made applicable to the country as a whole. What is good for the goose is also good for the gander. I have always opposed this piecemeal amendment to our Constitution, and I still oppose it.

Senator Zanna Medalla Sheriff : On a point of order, may I know if Senator (Mrs) Wuraola Esan is supporting or opposing the Motion.

The President : I think the Senator is just warming up. She will soon come to the point.

Senator Chief (Mrs) Esan : I have said earlier on that I have a duty towards the Government of the Western Region. I also said that, taking the Motion as it is, there is nothing wrong with it, but I still have some contributions to make. Therefore, Senator Sheriff should wait.

A Senator : We are listening.

Senator Chief (Mrs) Esan : At any rate, I am addressing the President, and through him, the Senators.

As I was saying, this piecemeal amendment to our Constitution is wrong. The suggestion made by some people that our able Prime Minister should stick to what he said before on this matter will not help us. I think that whatever happens, we have to back up the Prime Minister, not necessarily because all our problems in the Western Region will be solved by the passing of this Motion.

We all are hoping and praying for unity, progress, peace and tranquility in our country, and if any person should be cowardly and unable to say out what we think and hope will contribute towards the attainment of our objectives, at least that person should not be a woman. Whatever I say, I say as a woman. I have never studied law and I do not know why the ruling of the Privy Council should be accepted or rejected. That point should be left with the legal luminaries in this country. But I know that if we must pass an amendment to our Constitution, such amendment should be passed at the right time. That is the only reason I have for opposing this Motion. The Amendment to the Constitution of Western Nigeria has been passed into law at the wrong time. If we want peace in the Western Region, I do not agree with those who think that only the passing of such amending Bills, or even an election, will bring about peace and solve all the problems. When a thing has been spoilt, it is always very hard to patch it up. The Government, I dare say, must now try to do their best, because I am convinced that if even we have a general election in the West to-day, it will not

solve all the problems. It is doubtful. I do not, as some fanatics have suggested, advocate an election by all means. I know that if we have a general election we shall be able to say that we have given the people the power to exercise their right. But if we are not going to have this election people may say that justice has not been done because they have been denied their right. Who can say which people the electorate like? I have been saying, and I said it also at the last sitting of this House, that our people do appreciate good work. I do not say so because I think that this Government is doing good or bad work. Every Government is trying to do its best for the people who voted them into power, but the real thing the people want is progress.

I think that what is being done now in the Western Region is a total waste of energy, money, time, and manpower. To come here and say that all will be well in the West by passing this Bill is to do things which would be considered unprogressive. The passing of this Bill would not bring what we want in the West. Let us all forget politics. If a part of the body is becoming rotten, certainly the whole will soon get rotten. Let men of goodwill from every part of this country come together and see that a stop is put to the strain in the Western Region now which may continue for a long time to come.

We have been ruling ourselves even before the British Government came to rule us, and we cannot put any blame on Britain now for whatever may happen in this country. When there was a tribal war among the Yorubas in those days, the North was asked to come and aid. Certainly, we were not advised by the British people then, and it was done in a good way. Now that we are wiser and all of us pray for peace and unity in the country, is it not better that we should settle peacefully? If we all want unity and there is no dissenting voice among us, why cannot men of goodwill and good judgment come to our aid at this time? The passing of a Bill and the holding of an election is a continuity of war against one another in one sense or the other.

A Senator : Cold war !

Senator Chief (Mrs) Esan : And cold war is very hard to stop. If things continue as they do now, there will be no major crisis and no major upheaval, and, as a result, tension will

continue to rise. Do not let us deceive ourselves. If the country must continue with its Six-Year Plan there must be peace, and it is the duty and responsibility of the whole country to maintain this peace. If there is peace in the West, peace at the Federal level, and peace everywhere, we will continue planning simultaneously.

That is the reason why I said that we are wasting manpower in the West. At the present moment, no member of a West Regional Board will engage a brilliant son of his opponent on his Board. As a human being he would not do it, and this power is a very dangerous thing. We are just learning the use of power. We are learning to be able to manage ourselves, and we must thank God in that people can say whatever they like. I can go to Ibadan and say whatever I like and nobody will beat me up if I do not use cutlass or any weapon to harm anybody. We must be grateful for that. Nobody can stand up and say that Nigeria is a country where the Opposition is totally suppressed. In this regard, Nigeria has been doing very well indeed, and that is why I am appealing, through this House, to people of good judgment and goodwill to come forward. We should not allow this fight-to-finish to continue because we do not know when it will end.

Senator Salahu Fulani : It is a good thing, according to the first speaker on this Motion, for a Government to be perpetually vigilant, and I urge that the Federal Government should be vigilant.

Our relationship with Britain has been very strained for some of the following reasons. The British Government, since our independence, has realised that Nigeria is one of the most important countries in Africa and is bound to lead Africa, and this has been manifested by the recent Addis Ababa Conference. Our people who go to U.N.O. have been playing very prominent parts. They have been trying to get together the people, not only from Africa but also from Asia, and it is fully realised that in years to come Nigeria is bound to play an important role in African and Asian affairs. Also, during the recent Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference the point made by our Prime Minister on the European Common Market must have shaken the British people. It is true also that the part played by our Prime Minister in the expulsion of South Africa from the Commonwealth has annoyed

[SENATOR ALHAJI ABUBAKAR BALE]
the problem which then confronted us. But it was solved without inviting assistance from outside. Nobody knew how this problem was solved.

Take, for instance, what happened last year, even this year, in regard to a certain Chief of this country. The House of Commons in Britain dragged the matter up and down. They wanted a certain assurance from the Nigerian Government before a son of Nigeria could be tried in Nigeria for an offence committed in Nigeria. They first of all stood firm against the trial of this man in this country. But incidentally they failed.

Now, this decision passed by the Privy Council is the second attempt to undermine our sovereignty. This shows, therefore, that the time is now overdue when we must take care in dealing with these people. We must stand on our feet and challenge all that is against the interest of Nigeria. We should not allow this attitude of Britain to influence us. If there is anything to remedy, we must start to-day to remedy it. If we postpone it to the next day, things will grow worse and problems which would have taken us minutes to solve will take days or months or even years. This is the reason why we should not give the British Government an opportunity to ride us. We should not allow them to interfere with our affairs. By the help of God we will succeed in solving our problems ourselves.

I beg to support.

Senator M. B. Chukwubike : I rise to support the Motion at present under consideration by the Senate. I congratulate all those who initiated this move which seeks to preserve the Government of Western Nigeria. This Motion offers Senators an ample opportunity to speak out in restoration of the good name of this country which outside influences have always tried to destroy.

The immediate step taken by the Western Nigeria Government in this matter is praiseworthy. They are trying to nullify a certain decision which was taken by the Privy Council and which they have considered to be against the interest of this country. It also proves beyond doubt the confidence the people of Western Nigeria have in the Premier of that Region, Chief S. L. Akintola, and his Government. Our Prime Minister, whom many

people described as cool-headed, has stepped in immediately and has summoned Parliament to put a final stop to this nonsense so that peace will continue to reign in Western Nigeria.

I do not doubt the fact that Britain has changed greatly since our independence. They may have had good intentions in the past, but at present it seems that they are not happy with the effort we are making to shake off the yoke of imperialism here in Nigeria and in other African states. It might be, too, that our refusal to join the European Common Market was a surprise to them. They know that Nigeria is bound to lead Africa and, as such, they want to discredit its leaders. And again, that we shall become a republican country in October 1st worries them a lot and they have resorted to the last struggle to plan confusion and trouble in Nigeria. God guiding us, we are here to-day to reject their decision and their wicked plan.

I have two important points to stress. The first one is that since British has begun to treat us like this, there will be no need for us to send our appeals to the Privy Council. Secondly, if Britain continues to treat this country as it is doing now, we should contemplate on breaking away from the Commonwealth of Nations ^{here}.

Senator Chief J. S. Olayeye : I just want to say a few things on this Motion and I hope that if I say one thing it will not be taken to mean another thing. I will be failing in my duty if I do not say anything on this Motion.

It is important to note that if the present Government in the West will bring peace and tranquility into the Western Region—

Senator the hon. Dr Esin : We are not hearing clearly what the Senator is saying.

The President : Will the Senator please speak up.

Senator Chief Olayeye : May I start again ?

The President : The Senator may not start from the beginning of his speech.

Senator Chief Olayeye : I do not know where to start from.

The President : Just proceed, Senator.

contribute to anything that will never make for good government in the West, and I can say the same thing for the N.P.C. in the North. They are law-abiding and God-fearing people and they have good government in the North.

God, we will have it. (Hear, hear.)

Minister of State (Senator Alhaji the hon. Nuhu Bamali): I think my hon. Colleague, the Minister of Finance, has already wound up

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Senator Chief Olayeye : I would have kept quiet in consonance with the instruction given to me on the telephone from Okitipupa requesting me to keep quiet when this Motion is under consideration—

The Minister of Finance : What is the telephone number ?

Senator Chief Olayeye : Okitipupa 24. I just want to make a certain digression. If the Federal Government considers that the present Government in the Western Region will restore peace and tranquillity to that Region, I will have no hesitation in saying that I abide by it. Anything that can be done to bring peace and tranquillity to the Western Region will make me happy. I am not here to say that this man is right or that man is wrong. I have no legal experience like my friend Chief Festus Okotie-Eboh who, though not a lawyer, plays the role which is near that of a lawyer. Anybody who has watched him contributing to the debates in the other House will bear me out that he has some legal experience.

As I said earlier, I do not want to talk too much in order not to go against the wishes of any people in Okitipupa. I am not a Minister of Religion, but I know some Biblical quotations. It is said in the Bible that "righteousness exalteth a nation." Let us judge the performance of the former Government of the Western Region and the performance of the present Government, then we shall know where to draw the line. I would advise, with all the emphasis at my command, that the Federal Government should see that the people of the Western Region have the Government that is good for them. If the former Government had been victimising people, let the present Government check it. In speaking my innocent mind, I would like to say that there might be some people who feel that some of the Ministers of the former Government in Western Nigeria have not performed their functions well. What I would advise is that the present Government should correct these errors by example.

If I happen to be the former Minister of Finance in the Western Region and Chief F. S. Okotie-Eboh succeeds me as the Minister of Finance, certainly the taxpayers—the electorate of the Western Region—will know that the ability of Chief Okotie-Eboh beats that of

Chief Olayeye. If the Federal Government considers that the present Amendment will help the Western Region, well, I do not oppose it.

I have no bad mind, I know that our worthy President comes from the Western Region and this matter concerns us who come from the Western Region. May I give this warning, that the Government should take everything into consideration and see to it that the people in the Region are not victimised. We all love to have peace in our houses, the Western Nigeria Government should see to it that there is peace and tranquillity in the Western Region. The people in the Government should sit down and think. The Northern Region is peaceful and also in the Eastern Region everything is peaceful, but in the Western Region where I come from things keep on changing. I am not here to talk about politics.

Senator Chief P. I. Acholonu : On a point of order, I think Senator Chief Olayeye should confine himself to the Amendment of the Constitution. What he is doing is comparing Governments.

Senator Chief Olayeye : I am ever grateful to you our worthy President. As I was saying, we should give the people of the Western Region the chance to judge which is better, the former Government or the present Government in the Western Region. It is our own duty to judge who is right and who is wrong. I hope Chief Okotie-Eboh is not annoyed—

The President : He is not annoyed, he is waiting for the Senator to finish.

Senator Chief Olayeye : We are all in harmony and in concord that peace and tranquillity should return to the Western Region. If this Amendment is for peace in the Region, I beg to support.

Senator T. Olamijulo : It is with great compunction that I rise to speak on this Motion, because I was recommended to this august Senate by the present Premier of Western Nigeria, Chief Akintola. Since the events in the Western Region started, I have been greatly perplexed and I feel very sorry to be in the Senate at this time. At the same time, by what is happening, every Westerner is put to shame because the name of the Yorubas is being besmeared everywhere. It will therefore not be the wish—

Conventions	Title
5. No. 19 ..	Equality of Treatment (Accident Compensation) Convention, 1925.
6. No. 26 ..	Minimum Wage-Fixing Machinery Convention, 1928.
7. No. 29 ..	Forced Labour Convention, 1930.
8. No. 32 ..	Protection against Accidents (Dockers) Convention (Revised), 1932.
9. No. 45 ..	Underground Work (Women) Convention, 1935.
10. No. 50 ..	Recruitment of Indigenous Workers Convention, 1963.
11. No. 58 ..	Minimum Age (Sea) Convention (Revised), 1936.
12. No. 59 ..	Minimum Age (Industry) Convention (Revised), 1937.
13. No. 64 ..	Contracts of Employment (Indigenous Workers) Convention, 1939.
14. No. 65 ..	Penal Sanctions (Indigenous Workers) Convention, 1939.
15. No. 81 ..	Labour Inspection Convention, 1947.
16. No. 87 ..	Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948.
17. No. 88 ..	Employment Service Convention, 1948.
18. No. 94 ..	Labour Clauses (Public Contracts) Convention, 1947.
19. No. 95 ..	Protection of Wages Convention, 1949.
20. No. 97 ..	Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949.
21. No. 98 ..	Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949.
22. No. 104 ..	Abolition of Penal Sanctions (Indigenous Workers) Convention, 1955.
23. No. 105 ..	Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957.
24. No. 116 ..	Final Articles Revision Convention, 1961.

WORKS AND SURVEYS

Ilorin-Bussa Road

O.24 Senator Salihu Fulani asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, if he will consider taking over the Ilorin-Bussa Trunk

Road "B" in view of the ever-increasing volume of traffic on that road and the proposed Niger Dam project.

The Minister of Works and Surveys : Owing to the limited financial resources available for the reconstruction of the Federal trunk road system, it will not be possible for the Federal Government to take over any regional roads during the present economic programme. It should be noted however that the section of this road between Ilorin and Kaiama is already a trunk road 'A'.

COMMUNICATIONS

Nenwe Postal Agency

O.28 Senator M. B. Chukwubike asked the Minister of Communications, what was the volume of business transacted at the Nenwe (Awgu) Postal Agency in each of the years 1960, 1961 and 1962, respectively.

The Minister of Communications : There is no Postal Agency operating at Nenwe.

O.29 Senator M. B. Chukwubike asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will elevate the Nenwe Postal Agency to Sub-Post Office.

The Minister of Communications : There is no Postal Agency operating at Nenwe.

Telephone for Nenwe

O.30 Senator M. B. Chukwubike asked the Minister of Communications, whether he will extend telephone service to Agbogugu Secondary School, Ihe Teacher Training College, Nenwe Secondary School and other important institutions along the Enugu-Awgu telephone line.

The Minister of Communications : The provision of telephone service at Ihe and Nenwe is already listed for consideration under our 1962-68 Development Programme. I presume the place mentioned by the hon. Senator as Agbogugu is the same as Abo Ogugu, shown on the map or in the Nigerian Gazette of Place Names. This is situated about 4 miles North of Ihe on the Enugu-Awgu Road. If such is the case, the provision of telephone

service will be considered at the same time as that for Ihe and Nenwe.

I should like to take this opportunity to correct the widely held belief that a telephone service can be provided simply because an existing telephone line passes through a locality. Existing telephone lines can often be used to extend the service by providing more wires on the poles or by the installation of special equipment which allows one pair of wires to carry several different circuits. There are however many technical problems to consider in each case before a decision can be taken on the feasibility of providing the service required from an existing line.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Trade Agreements

O.32. Senator Abubakar Garba asked the Minister of Commerce and Industry, if he will state how many foreign countries have signed trade agreements with Nigeria since independence.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry: Since independence Nigeria has signed five trade agreements, with the following countries—Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Western Germany, and the Republic of Cameroun. The agreements with the first two countries have been ratified and are therefore in force.

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MINES AND POWER

Ilorin Geological Survey

O.25. Senator Salihu Fulani asked the Minister of Mines and Power, whether he is aware that a large area of Ilorin Province has not been surveyed despite the fact that there are large mineral deposits in commercial quantities.

The Minister of Mines and Power (Alhaji the hon. Yusuff Maitama Sule): Parts of Ilorin have been geologically surveyed and large parts of the remaining areas have been investigated by geologists in connection with water supply. So far as the parts surveyed in Ilorin are concerned no mineral deposits of major commercial importance are known.

WORKS AND SURVEYS

Ajasse-Egbe Trunk 'A' Road

O.27. Senator Salihu Fulani asked the Minister of Works and Surveys, how soon the Ajasse-Egbe Trunk 'A' Road will be tarred, especially in view of the increased volume of traffic on that road.

The Minister of Works and Surveys (Alhaji the hon. Inuwa Wada): In view of increasing traffic, the Ajasse Omuaran Section is being rehabilitated and the bridges reconstructed. Work has already started on this. The approaches to bridges on this road will also be tarred but owing to limited funds it will not be possible to tar the remainder of the road during the current Economic Programme.

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Federal Commissions (Privileges and Immunities) Bill (see Bills)**Finance, Minister of (Chief the hon. F. S. Okotie-Eboh) :**

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G**Garba, Senator Alhaji Abubakar (see, Abubakar Garba, Senator Alhaji)****Greene, Senator M. A. :**

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H**Hassan Rafindadi, Senator :**

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Hunponu-Wusu, Senator Chief S. T. :

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Internal Affairs, Minister of (Alhaji the hon. Shehu Shagari) :

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J**Judicial, etc., Offices and Appeals by Prosecutors Bill (see Bills)****L****Lagunju, Senator E. A. :**

Amendment of the Constitution of Western Nigeria	493-495
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