



GOLD COAST

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES, 1953

ISSUE NO. 1, VOLUME IV
19th March - 30th March, 1953

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**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
DEBATES, 1953**

SESSION, 1953

ISSUE NO. I



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OFFICIAL REPORT

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THE GOLD COAST GOVERNMENT

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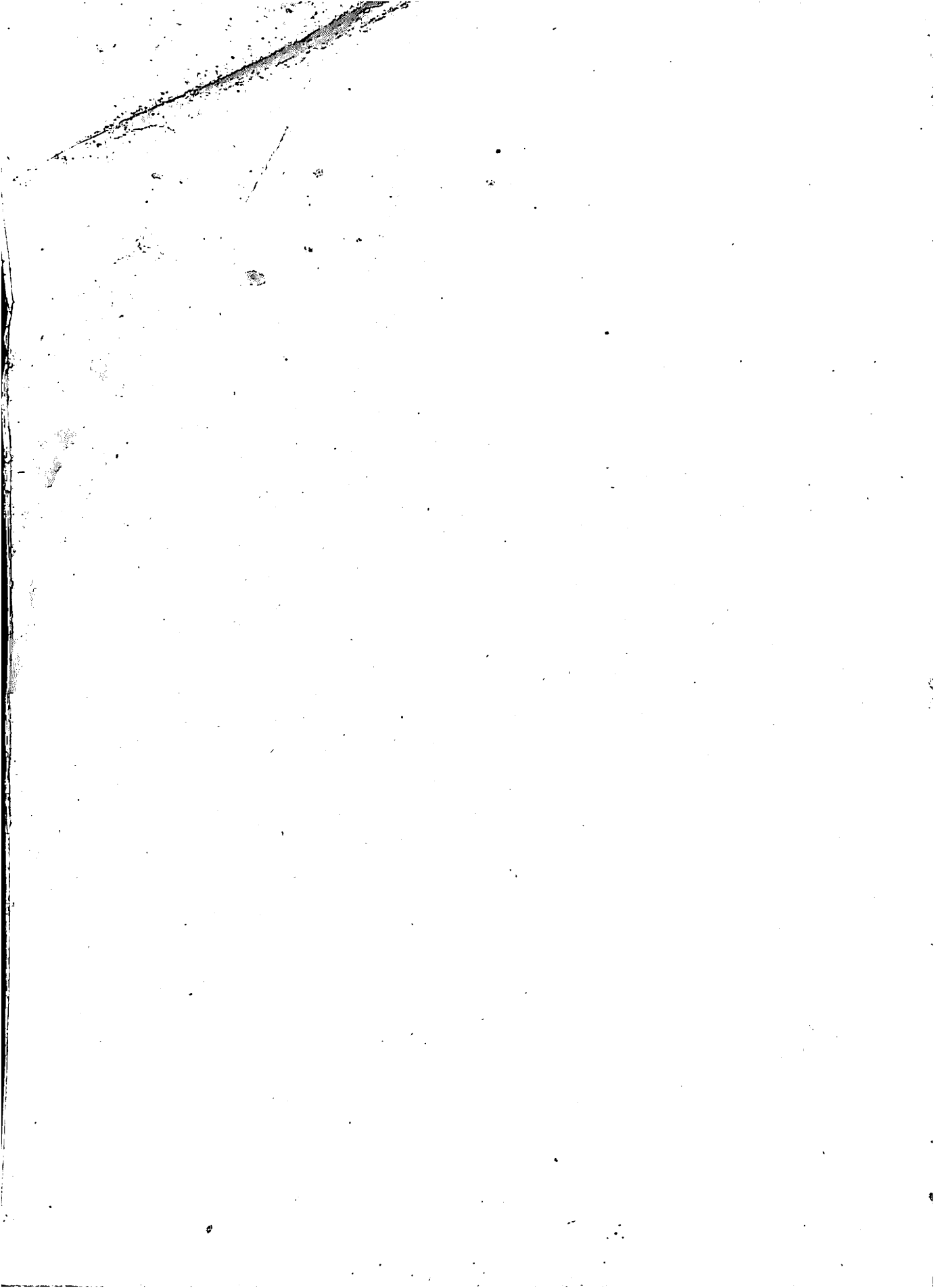
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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY, 19TH MARCH, 1953:

The House resumed at 9 a.m.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair).

PRAYERS

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday the 18th March, 1953, were confirmed.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Retrospective Salaries for Non-Government Teachers

233. MR. BEDIAKO POKU asked the Minister of Education and Social Welfare when Teachers in the non-Government schools will receive their retrospective salaries as a result of the Erzuah recommendations?

MINISTERIAL SECRETARY TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (MR. J. B. ERZUAH): I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I gave to Question No. 141 by the Second Territorial Member, Colony Ewe Group.

Day Nurseries

234. MR. BEDIAKO POKU: How many Day Nursery Schools are there in the Colony and how many are in Ashanti?

MR. ERZUAH: On the assumption that the Honourable Member refers to Day Nurseries, there are seven in the Colony and two in Ashanti.

Child Delinquency

235. MR. BEDIAKO POKU: How many children were sent into the Boys' Industrial School in 1949, 1950 and 1952? Is the percentage of child delinquency in the country on the increase or decrease?

MR. ERZUAH: I will give the figures for the last four years:—

1949	..	..	..	..	..	99
1950	..	..	..	..	..	62
1951	..	..	..	..	..	113
1952	..	..	..	..	..	97

As regards the second part of the Honourable Member's question, the percentage of child offenders brought before the Juvenile Courts has increased of late, but the reason for this is regarded as being attributable to the greater interest and co-operation of the general public in the problems of dealing with child delinquency and also to an increase in preventive measures.

MR. BEDIAKO POKU: Is the Minister aware that children under 17 years still attend cinema shows in Accra, and what steps is the Minister taking to enforce the law passed in this House which prohibits children attending cinemas?

MR. ERZUAH: I think the Honourable Member will remember that the enforcement of laws passed in this House is the duty of the Police.

MR. BEDIAKO POKU: And when the Police are not enforcing the rule or the law, what do you do?

MR. ERZUAH: I am afraid, the duty of the Police is to enforce the law.

Admission of Children into the Primary Schools

271. MR. ABUBEKR asked the Minister of Education and Social Welfare:

- (a) What is the number of children who registered for admission in 1952 in the Primary Schools of the Colony, Ashanti, Northern Territories and Trans-Volta/Togoland, respectively?
- (b) What is the actual number who got admission into Primary Schools as from January, 1952?

MR. ERZUAH:

(a) Colony	66,612
Ashanti	35,524
Northern Territories (including Northern Togoland)	1,483
Trans-Volta/Togoland	18,940
Total	122,559
 (b) Colony	67,041
Ashanti	35,797
Northern Territories (including Northern Togoland)	1,737
Trans-Volta/Togoland	16,561
Total	121,136

MR. KUSI: How do you expect children who register and do not get admission to have education?

MR. ERZUAH: It is obvious that those who were registered and did not have admission will not have education, but if the Honourable Member looks into the figures he will find that as a matter of fact in Ashanti, the Colony and the Northern Territories, more children were admitted than had registered.

MR. KUSI: It is the duty of the Ministry of Education to provide facilities for school children, and I would like to know whether this Ministry is planning to give education to all children who have registered?

MR. ERZUAH: It is the aim of the Ministry to provide education for all children who are eligible and the Ministry is doing everything possible to fulfil that promise.

272. N. B. ABUBEKR:

- (a) What was the total number of children in Primary VI at the end of 1952 in schools in the Colony, Ashanti, Northern Territories and Trans-Volta/Togoland, respectively?
- (b) What is the total number of Primary Schools in the respective regions as compared with Middle Schools in January, 1953?
- (c) What is the total number of children who got admission into Middle Form 1 in January, 1953, and how many Primary VI children did not get admission?
- (d) What is the fate of those who did not gain admission into Middle Form 1?

MR. ERZUAH:

- (a)-(c) I regret that the figures are not yet available, but as soon as returns have been received from all schools and consolidated by the Education Department I will furnish the Honourable Member with the answers to his questions.
- (d) I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer I gave to the Honourable the Second Territorial Member for the Colony Ewe Group in reply to his Question No. O/140 on the same subject.

MR. ABUBEKR: Do you intend the children who leave the Primary VI to continue their education under the Mass Education Scheme, or you have some other plan?

MR. ERZUAH: The whole of the Accelerated Development Plan is now under review, and it is the aim of the Ministry to do the best it can to provide education for the children even for those in the Middle Schools.

MR. ABUBEKR: Do you therefore admit that under the plan as it now stands, boys or children from Primary VI who will not get admission into the Middle Schools will become a liability to the country?

MR. ERZUAH: What the Honourable Member has stated may be a fact, but it is true also that the Ministry in putting forward the plan, as I said when I was winding up the debate on education, was aware that difficulties would arise and as difficulties arise, they must be met.

Termination of Appointments of Married Female Teachers

273. MR. ABUBEKR:

- (a) Is it true that the appointments of married Female Teachers were terminated at the request of Government at the end of 1952?
- (b) What was the reason for taking such action?

MR. ERZUAH:

- (a) No, Sir.
- (b) The second part of the Honourable Member's question does not arise.

MR. ABUBEKR: Has it not been brought to the notice of the Ministry that female teachers who are married have had their services terminated by the Educational Units in the country, particularly in Ashanti?

MR. ERZUAH: It is not the general rule that they should be discarded from teaching. The point is a few of them may be served with provisional notices of termination in anticipation of new teachers coming in; that is the purpose of these notices.

MR. ABUBEKR: This is not clear. By "in anticipation of new teachers," do you mean you want some teachers to replace the teachers who are at present teaching? I want this point to be clarified.

MR. ERZUAH: The Honourable Member will appreciate that it will be a breach of contract if a teacher comes out of the Training College and has no school to teach in. Therefore in order not to break this contract provision is made to place all these teachers in schools and then to fill the remaining vacancies.

MR. ABUBEKR: That means that those who are now teaching should give way to those with whom you have the contract?

MR. ERZUAH: I think the great need in this country at the moment is that of teachers and it is only taking precautions to see that those who have been trained and are coming from the Colleges are provided for.

MR. KUSI: In view of the answer that the need for teachers is great, what is the reason for turning out old teachers in the schools for new teachers?

MR. ERZUAH: As I said, it is not the general rule to cast them out. But first of all we must be sure that we fulfil the contracts with the new teachers that are coming and then fill the remaining vacancies with those who have already completed their bonds and with whom the Government have no contract.

MR. ABUBEKR: What do you do with the contracts of the old ones?

MR. ERZUAH: Mr. Teacher (*laughter*): Mr. Speaker, well usually when the female teacher marries, her bond is waived and there is no contract.

9.15 a.m.

Two-storey School Building—Toase

279. MR. B. F. KUSI asked the Minister of Education and Social Welfare:

- (a) What is the total cost of the new two-storey school building at Toase in Atwima Mponua area in Kumasi West Constituency?
- (b) Would the Honourable Gentleman explain the reasons why Toase in Atwima Mponua has been denied Approved Middle School for 1953?

MR. ERZUAH:

- (a) Between £7,000 and £8,000 at an estimate.
- (b) A Middle School opening has not been approved for Toase in 1953 because it is adequately served by four existing Middle Schools within a radius of five miles, none of which is full.

MR. KUSI: In view of the answer, do you suggest that Kumasi would not be qualified for an Approved Middle School in 1954?

MR. ERZUAH: We are dealing with 1953.

MR. KUSI: I want to know whether the Ministry of Education is not discouraging people in the rural areas by not giving them financial assistance to build schools and when they build schools, Middle Schools are denied them? Is it not a discouragement to people in the rural areas?

MR. ERZUAH: The fact that one town has not been provided with a Middle School is no reason to suppose that the Ministry is discouraging people in the rural areas.

MR. KUSI: In view of the fact that the Accelerated Education Plan does not make provision for education in the rural areas but makes provision for granting money to municipal towns, what plan has the Minister to encourage people in the rural areas who are prepared to build schools to provide their children with education?

MR. ERZUAH: The principle underlying this question is that we should make full use of the teachers available at the present and when there are so many schools around the town in question and they are not filled up it is not economical to transfer teachers into a nearby school.

Government Assistance for building Schools in Rural Areas

280. MR. B. F. KUSI: In view of the fact that people in the rural areas are paying higher rate education levy, will the Honourable Gentleman consider providing funds for building schools at places like Adankwame, Asakraka, Kyekyewere and Nyankyerenese?

MR. ERZUAH: No, Sir; I would refer the Honourable Member to paragraphs 5, 25 and 26 of the Accelerated Development Plan for Education wherein the responsibilities of the Central Government and Local Authorities for the financing of Primary and Middle Schools are clearly explained.

MR. KUSI: The Accelerated Development Education Plan which you referred to here in this answer makes provision for schools in the municipal towns only, and I want to know whether the Minister of Education has made provision to give grants to Local Councils in the rural areas to provide education for children in the rural areas?

MR. ERZUAH: The position is that which is explained in the paragraphs I have referred to.

DR. ANSAH KOI: What are the causes of the difference in the education levy in the country? Will the Minister find it possible to generalise the education levy in the whole country?

MR. ERZUAH: I am afraid I do not grasp the difference in education levy that the Honourable Member is referring to.

DR. ANSAH KOI: What I mean is that in some places the education levy is higher than at other places. It may be £1, £1 10s. and £2. What are the causes of this difference and will the Minister standardise the levies to be the same?

MR. ERZUAH: I would begin by saying that this question is at the moment under review, but as to the difference in levy, that arises out of the resources of each Local Authority area.

Allowances to Teacher Trainees

295. MR. J. E. JANTUAH asked the Minister of Education and Social Welfare:

- (a) Whether all teacher trainees receive allowances for their personal use?
- (b) What are the minimum and maximum allowances that a teacher trainee may receive per annum?

MR. ERZUAH:

- (a) No, Sir; teachers in training receive salaries in accordance with paragraph 53 of the Accelerated Development Plan for Education.
- (b) The salaries paid are in accordance with the scales recommended in the Erzuah Report.

MR. JANTUAH: In my question I used the words "teacher trainees", but in the answer they use the phrase "teachers-in-training". May I know what the difference is between "teachers-in-training" and "teacher trainees"?

MR. ERZUAH: We assumed that the Honourable Member was referring to teachers who are being trained. I suppose that is the correct terminology. The correct terminology in the offices is "teachers-in-training".

MR. JANTUAH: I did not mean teachers who are being trained, but I mean students who are being trained to be teachers.

MR. ERZUAH: That is exactly what I mean.

MR. JANTUAH: In that case do they receive salaries as you have stated here?

MR. ERZUAH: They do, Sir.

Bonding of Teacher Trainees

296. MR. JANTUAH: Are all Teacher Trainees who receive their tuition free of charge under the Accelerated Plan bonded to teach after the completion of their course? If so, for how long and in what sum are they bonded?

MR. ERZUAH: Yes, Sir; for five years and in sums ranging from £60 to £100 in the case of men and from £15 to £25 in the case of women according to the type of course.

Permitted Schools

297. MR. JANTUAH: What is the real significance of a "Permitted School"?

MR. ERZUAH: I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to paragraph 7 of the Accelerated Development Plan for Education, and to the statement regarding the opening of new schools which I made in the Legislative Assembly on the 30th April, 1951.

MR. JANTUAH: In view of the fact that Government have now come out boldly with a statement to the effect that pupils who pass through those permitted schools will be awarded certificates, will the Government also come out with a statement that certificated teachers who teach in these schools will also receive recognition by way of retaining their gratuities, pension rights and all other rights appertaining to their duties?

MR. ERZUAH: I will cut the whole thing short by saying, as I have already stated, that the whole question is at the moment under consideration.

DR. ANSAH KOI: In view of the fact that it is the intention of the Government to see that education is spread quickly, would it not be advisable for the Government to take over all the schools as they are doing to some of the Permitted Schools?

MR. ERZUAH: I must repeat that the question is at the moment under consideration.

The House at this stage resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

HOUSE IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

MINISTRY OF LABOUR

Labour Department

The debate on the following motion by the Minister of Labour, continues:—

- (i) "That the sum of £97,980 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Labour Department shall stand part of the Schedule."
- (ii) "That the sum of £15,000 provided in the Third Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Labour Department shall stand part of the Schedule."

[*Progress: 18th March, 1953*]

MR. ASUMDA: Mr. Chairman, I did not finish yesterday. May I read the last paragraph of the letter which I started yesterday.

Clause 5: "After giving this matter a great deal of thought the Chamber of Mines is convinced that this scheme will not work on a voluntary basis with the men being allowed to withdraw their accumulated savings whenever they choose. To achieve any success the deductions must be compulsory and no money so saved can be withdrawn until the men wish to return to their homes. No doubt all new employees could be asked to sign a form agreeing to these deductions as part of the terms of employment".

Mr. Chairman, the context of the Ordinance is an extremely good one. It seeks to secure the employee from being cheated or defrauded by his employer. I do not see the reason why the Mining Companies are seeking the removal of this Ordinance by the Government. One who has not examined the advantages and the disadvantages of this letter carefully will hasten to conclude that it is economically sound. To me it is not. The purpose of removing the Ordinance is two-fold. Firstly, it is an attempt to drive a wedge into the strong labour movement which is the vanguard of the miners of this country. Secondly, to promote tribalism among the workers; in other words, the promoters want to introduce what is known as divide and rule policy in the Mines. It is a system which does not seek the benefits of the workers of the Mines. Why should this scheme be applied only to the Northern Territories

[MR. ASUMDA]

workers in the Mines? The people of the Northern Territories do seasonal farming and it is only during this short period of rest that our young men come down to work for money and return. Therefore if this Ordinance is accepted for removal it means that our young men are going to be pinned down to die in the Mines, leaving their poor parents at home uncared for. What we really want is their salaries to be paid direct to them without any compulsory deduction.

MR. HUGH THOMAS: There is no compulsory deduction in the Mines!

MR. ASUMDA: This letter is to seek the approval of the Government to introduce a compulsory saving of 15 per cent of the Northern Territories miners' earnings. Mr. Chairman, if the companies have the Northern Territories workers interest at heart why should they not introduce a provident fund as is done for Europeans in the Mines.

Mr. Minister, this was the arrangement between the Chamber of Mines and the Government about this bad situation. As luck would have it this arrangement was not through. Therefore I strongly pray on behalf of the representatives here and the people of the Northern Territories that this idea should not be accepted by this Government. This matter was brought before the Northern Territories Council and was entirely rejected.

NENE AZZU MATE KOLE: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I do not know what the Honourable Gentleman is reading. Is it a speech or a letter or a document? I would like to know.

MR. ASUMDA: The Honourable Member was not here yesterday.

NENE AZZU MATE KOLE: I was here!

MR. ASUMDA: I am giving facts to substantiate the letter which I read yesterday. He should not interrupt me (*laughter*). This is a labour question. The Northern Territories people are the labourers in this country, and I am here to represent them. I do not care a fig about that. We must remember that the cry—

MR. CHAIRMAN: You must not use offensive language. When you are speaking here you must know that you are speaking in a dignified place and your language must be dignified.

MR. ASUMDA: Mr. Chairman, the cry in this country is self-government. Therefore if such odds are placed in the way of one section of the territory, woe betide any Government. We do not want the way they recruited our men from the Northern Territories to the Mines. It is entirely a slavish work. Section 13

[MR. ASUMDA]

of the Ordinance says that the Governor may prohibit recruiting labour when it appears to be necessary for the welfare of the Gold Coast. I respectfully ask the Minister to see that this Ordinance is not removed.

To conclude, I wish to make mention in principle of a class of worker in this country, that is the domestic workers in this country. The domestic workers are entirely denied the same measures as compared with other workers. Whose fault is it? It is the fault of the Government. I firmly believe that it is the duty of every progressive Government to cater for the general well-being of the whole structure of its society and workers, but Governments upon Governments have neglected the domestic workers. Let the employers give you a detailed picture of the cost of living in this country. You allow the Europeans, the Syrians and the Greeks and all strange people from other countries to cheat these people. Remember that these people voted for you in the last general elections and may continue to vote for you in the coming general elections. They form part and parcel of the political struggles of this country. I therefore strongly suggest to the Minister to try and ease some of the burning problems of the domestic workers in this country and fix their salaries as has been stipulated in the Lidbury/Gbedemah recommendations; grant them full leave pay as in the case of their masters; and introduce a system whereby the domestic workers as other workers could be paid in their respective offices in order to avoid misunderstanding in their payments.

With these few remarks, I wish to make it quite clear to the Minister that so far as labour is concerned in this country we the people of the Northern Territories will not sit down and see that our brethren are brought down to be ill-treated. We are their representatives. A time will come one day that this question would be very bad. Thank you.

COL. BEAN: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to answer one point straightaway which was made by the last Honourable Member who spoke referring to the deferred pay scheme, which we hope we shall be able to introduce in the mining industry. Yesterday he read out to this Assembly a private letter from me addressed to all Members of the Chamber of Mines. I can only conclude that he must have thought that the letter was addressed to the Members of this Assembly, although it is very difficult to believe that he could make such a mistake; otherwise I consider it an example of very ill manners. It must have been quite obvious that that letter was addressed to all Members of the Chamber of Mines, because it starts "ALL MEMBERS" and was signed by the General Manager of the Chamber of Mines. Had it been intended for the Members of the Assembly it could naturally have started "ALL MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY".

[COL. BEAN]

However, I am extremely pleased he did read it out because those who heard it will see that what we are trying to do is extremely beneficial to all workers who come from the part of the country which he is representing.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: No! No!

COL. BEAN: If he is trying to stop the scheme which everybody concerned is asking for, then I can only say that he could not do a greater disservice to the people he represents. That scheme is an attempt to save some money for these workers so that they can go home with it; and also to give them a bonus which amounts now not actually to $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent but something nearer 10 per cent on top of their savings. That is a scheme which surely can only be beneficial to the people it is intended for. It is completely voluntary in that those people who want to enter it can do so—

MR. ALIDU KANTON: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Why should such a scheme be made for only the people of the Northern Territories?

COL. BEAN: I submit, Mr. Chairman, that this is not a point of order and when I finish speaking perhaps the Honourable Member would like to speak; but I shall make that point quite clear as I go on. This scheme was introduced at the expressed wish of the Chiefs of the Northern Territories and many of the workers themselves.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: No! No!

MR. S. D. DOMBO: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not a point of order at all. You can speak later on; why do you always like to interrupt in such a manner?

COL. BEAN: I repeat that this scheme was introduced at the expressed wish of the Chiefs of the Northern Territories who visited the Mining Companies. It has been put in a proper manner to Government and it has been very carefully considered by the Government. The Honourable Members from the Northern Territories in this House can rest assured that all their workers' interests are really being properly safeguarded not only by myself, but also by the Honourable the Minister of Labour who has given this matter the most careful thought. It has been discussed at great length with him. And at the meeting of the Labour Advisory Committee, it was thrashed out in the presence of a large number of Africans including the Leader of the Gold Coast Mines Employees Union. It is true that the advantages of this scheme are so great that the Leader of the Union requested that it be made available to all the workers. The Mines were trying to help those people

[COL. BEAN]

who came from a distance; that is why they proposed to help the Northern Territories rather than make it available to those whose homes are actually in the mining areas. It is going to cost the Mining Companies a large sum of money. We do not think that we shall be able to make it available to all employees. At that meeting the Leader of the Union said that he strongly supported the scheme on behalf of all the workers provided it was made available to everybody; we said we could not do that in the first instance, but we would try it out first of all in a section of the industry to see how it worked. It was the wish of that meeting which was presided over by the Minister himself that the scheme should be run on two Mines only for a trial period of one year to see how it worked. Nobody can be forced to enter into it; but once they have signed that they would like their money withheld until they go, then they have to abide by it, in the same way as I myself who am fortunately a Member of a Provident Scheme also have to do. I would very much like to use the money at times but fortunately for me I am not allowed to; so that when I go home I shall have a few savings. And that is what we are trying to do for those men of the Northern Territories who are working on the Mines. It is extremely discouraging when one is trying to do something which is so obviously to the benefit of everybody who participates in it, to hear Honourable Members get up and try to condemn it. I can see no possible disadvantage in this scheme. If a point is made that it may be all right for me to enter into a provident scheme but how can a poor worker afford to save part of his scanty pay, well, to answer that, I would inform you that on one of the Mines a voluntary scheme of this nature has been in existence for a very long time and practically every worker in that Mine saves part of his pay to take back home with him. It is working so well that we hope to introduce it everywhere. It has the full support of the Commissioner of Labour and the Labour Advisory Committee and the Minister has also backed this scheme for a trial period. There is no harm in trying it out. If the trial proves it bad we shall stop it; but if it proves a good scheme as we all hope it will, let us expand it as far as we can, because it will benefit the workers.

MR. S. DOMBO: Mr. Chairman, may I correct what he said. I am glad to be given opportunity to—

MR. CHAIRMAN: You said that you only wanted to correct a statement. I hope you are not making a speech.

MR. DOMBO: All right, Sir. I always hold the Mining Companies in great respect. When I visited the Mines and saw how much they were trying for my people, I said well, these people are doing something for my people. But then I learnt of this scheme which the Honourable Member has just spoken about, and which

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was read by the Member from the North. It was first brought to the Northern Territories Council which consists of the Chiefs and the people by the Mining Representative at Bolgatanga. It was flatly rejected by the whole Council. (Hear! Hear! Hear!).

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Very obnoxious scheme!

MR. DOMBO: Therefore if the Honourable Member stands here and says that the Chiefs and the people are asking for it, I say it is unfounded. If these people—these Chiefs whom they invited themselves from the Northern Territories to come and visit the Mines—if they are the people who supported this scheme then I would say that it is not what the people of the Northern Territories think and we are not supporting them in that respect at all. (Hear! Hear! Hear!). If the Honourable Member feels that the scheme is a good one, why does he make a distinction between the other workers in the Mines and those from the Northern Territories? What makes us to believe, Mr. Chairman, that it is really true? Members stand here in this House and say that the Mining Companies are giving the workers sufficient pay but now this statement confirms that the people are not really being well paid. If the letter read states that when the workers in the Mines return to their parents at home without money they are turned away because they have no money and therefore to save this situation something of a forced nature will be brought to this Assembly for the Government to initiate legislation in order that workers of the Northern Territories extraction will be forced to put part of their scanty pay away as savings, it is not understood. I do not know what he means by that at all.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Does he want the people to work on empty stomach?

MR. DOMBO: If he wants the people to save—I think every man is quite sensible and knows that saving is a good thing—pay them well and they will save. But if you give them three shillings and the cost of living is high what do you expect them to do? Will they have the strength to work? Therefore if you give them 3s. 6d. a day they will not be able to save even sixpence. Pay them enough and they will save enough.

9.45 a.m.

All those who enter a mine and come out again should always pray to God. Though the mines have taken some precautions in trying to save the lives of the labourers, yet a man will never be happy after returning from a mine. Therefore we disapprove of this statement made by the Special Member for Mines and that the Chiefs of the Northern Territories who went down there and made such representations to you misinformed you. Your

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representative will tell you the true attitude of the people of the Northern Territories when they met in the Council of the Northern Territories, and therefore we disapprove of it and we are advising the Minister strongly that we will protest and kick until we see that such an Ordinance does not come to this House to be passed. I feel that every Member of this House will not accede to it because this is a complete forced labour to be placed on the people of the Northern Territories. Because if I give part of my pay when it is time for me to go back to my home to work for my father and mother they will tell me that if you are going you must not get this, and therefore I am pinned down by the saving that is supposed to be accruing. Even they tell us that if they go on strike they will forfeit their interest.

MR. J. E. HAGAN: Mr. Chairman, this is a fact. It happened even in the commercial firms when we went on strike. Those people who had interests in the firms had their money withheld; it was not given to them. It is a fact.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I did not hear you.

MR. HAGAN: I said, it is a fact that where the interest of the worker is concerned as regards savings, when one goes on strike and that strike is declared illegal his savings are forfeited by the firms. I have a typical example of those who went on strike during the Positive Action.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can you substantiate that?

MR. HAGAN: Oh, yes, Mr. Chairman. I can even give you names.

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY (rose)—

MR. HUGH THOMAS: I am afraid it is a lie.

MR. LAMPTEY: Before we go on I would like the Honourable the First Member for Mines to withdraw the statement he made that the Honourable Member's statement was a lie.

MR. HUGH THOMAS: I cannot withdraw it, for the Honourable Member got up and said that when they go on strike they will forfeit their savings. It is an absolute lie, and I still say this is a lie and I am not going to withdraw it.

MR. DADSON: He should not have said it was a lie. He should have said that it is not true.

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: Mr. Chairman, I want to have a ruling on this. I am asking that he withdraws it otherwise we move that the Honourable Member be no more heard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why should he withdraw?

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: Because he has abused his privilege in this House and I move that he be not heard. We insist that he withdraws it.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Withdraw! Withdraw! Withdraw!

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is an expression of opinion.

MR. HAGAN: Mr. Chairman, we did not hear you clearly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I said it was an expression of opinion. I do not consider that there is anything to be withdrawn. I have not asked anybody here to withdraw.

MR. HAGAN: So anybody can say "it is a lie". Mr. Chairman, I want you to clarify this fact. Can any Honourable Member tell any Member that he is a liar in this House?

MR. CHAIRMAN: If he tells him that he is a liar, that is entirely different; that may be using abusive language, and that he cannot do; but he is just expressing an opinion; it is a different matter to abuse an Honourable Member.

DR. DANQUAH: Mr. Chairman, you say if you call a person a liar, that may be an offence but are we to understand that if you say a person has told a lie, it is no offence?

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you say a person has told an untruth or what the person is saying is incorrect, can you say he should withdraw it? He is expressing his opinion.

DR. DANQUAH: I think the Honourable Member for Tarkwa made a point that what the First Member for Mines ought to have said was that the statement was not true, but to say that it was a lie was not parliamentary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That may not be parliamentary but I have ruled already and I am not going to alter my ruling.

MR. DOMBO: Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Member at the beginning of his speech commented that the letter read to us was a private one sent to Members from the Chamber of Mines, but this letter has been addressed to the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Commissioner of Labour, Labour Department, and therefore it is not a private letter.

So far I have finished with the Mines. I will now come to labour on the farms, particularly cocoa farms. Everybody in this House knows that it is through labour on the farms that our main source of revenue is obtained. But last year we made some representations here as regards conditions of workers on the farms. We met the Commissioner of Labour and we suggested some points to him and we tried to advise him that there should be a committee of enquiry to look into the conditions of employment of farm

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labourers in this country. I do not know whether that step has been taken or not, but so far there is nothing that I can say as to whether that advice was taken. Some farmers went on to say that labourers working on the farms do get one-third share of the proceeds of cocoa at the harvest season. I disapprove of that statement, because many of the labourers who work in the farms are so badly treated financially that they find it impossible to go back to their own homes. When these labourers go to the farmer and he finds that they are poor he undertakes to care for them by providing cloths and shorts for them. Then the farmer asks them to work for a year at the end of which he promises to pay them only £12 each. If it has now been increased, I cannot say, but last year it was £12 for a labourer working for 12 months; and he is only given cloth and shorts for the first time. So, Mr. Chairman, I feel that this is very serious. It is one of the things that the Labour Department should investigate because without satisfactory working conditions on the farms, you will soon find that labour on the farms will not be attractive, thereby bringing in the spread of the swollen shoot.

MR. B. F. KUSI: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt. Let him speak.

MR. DOMBO: I believe the swollen shoot disease is caused by lack of labour on certain farms. Therefore it will be of interest if we are told by the Minister that he will take all the necessary steps to see that labour on the farms is also well cared for otherwise our own people will not work on the cocoa farms. They are more interested in the yam farms than in the cocoa farms. That is why many farmers in the South here do not get as many labourers as they wish to get. The yam farms yield much income than the cocoa farms. When you go to work on the yams you go home quickly to see your father and mother, but on the cocoa farms you are held up for a year and eventually you go back with nothing at all. So I would like the Minister, Mr. Chairman, to take this advice very seriously and see that something is done for labourers on the farms too. We also complain that there are certain people in the big centres who sell these labourers—indirect slave trade—by giving these labourers to the farmers. Because some young men when they come first to the big centres have no places to go and the headmen in such areas arrange with the farmers that they could get them labourers. Then the farmer also says, if you give me so many people I will give you so much. Therefore when these people come and they find no place to stay in they are deceived by these people and given into bondage and many a time you find some labourers running away. Why should they run away? If they themselves had sought for the business they would not run away. They are rather sold indirectly to the farmers. It is a fact.

[MR. DOMBO]

Then you know that the success of labour in this country depends very much on the sincerity of the people carrying on business and I have a case to bring to the Minister's notice. Mr. Chairman, I will see the Minister privately on this case and I would like him to answer certain questions. You know that a large number of labourers comes from the Northern Territories and I see in the Estimates that provision has been made for 10 Assistant Labour Officers. Then returning to Items 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15, I would be very pleased if the Minister could tell me how many of these men are of Northern Territories extraction. I think it is necessary to have Northern Territories people among these people, because they understand the language of their own people and they will be better able to explain the conditions on the labour card to the people seeking employment. So I would like the Minister to tell me how many from each of the items I have mentioned are of Northern Territories extraction, and how many he intends to take next year.

Mr. KUSI rose—

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, you may make it and then the Minister will wind up. We have only 20 minutes more. Yesterday we started at 11.50, so the time expires at 10.20.

10 a.m.

MR. B. F. KUSI: The last speaker made reference to the fact that the labourers on the farms are given only £1 a month, that is £12 per annum. That is not at all correct.

A NORTHERN TERRITORIES MEMBER: It is correct!

MR. KUSI: The labourers are given free accommodation, free supply of clothing, free supply of food and then free medical treatment, and they are given a sufficient amount of food. Sometimes the farmers allow the labourers to use any amount of foodstuffs in the farms at the expense of the farmers and also they are fairly treated as brothers and cousins. I say that this is quite incorrect. The farmers are kind to our workers on the farms. Also, Mr. Chairman, there are two ways of employment of people from the Northern Territories. Sometimes we employ them as caretakers or supervisors on the farms, and in this respect we give them one-third of the proceeds which is quite sufficient, and people who have actually worked on the farms will admit that. The report submitted by Seers and Ross also confirms that. The farmers give one-third of the proceeds to the caretakers or supervisors of the farms. So the statement made by the Honourable Member is a false accusation of the farmers.

Mr. KWESI LAMPTEY rose—

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Arrangement!

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: This is not an arrangement (laughter).

This morning—

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not waste any time. You have only five minutes.

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: Mr. Chairman is the boss of this place (laughter).

Mr. Chairman, I feel that the Labour Department ought to make investigations to make us know exactly whether there is full employment in this country or not. They have to let us know how many people are employed during the year, and how many people are unemployed. As it is we do not know exactly how many people in this country are unemployed but the Ministry keeps on telling us that there is no unemployment in this country. The Labour Exchange ought to be reshuffled or reorganised. We have sent almost every Labour Officer in this country to Britain and I was expecting that they should have learnt enough to come to reorganise the Labour Exchange in this country. The Labour Exchange in this country is entirely different from that in Britain; the Commissioner of Labour will admit that. If so something must be done.

A lot has been said about the Mines, and labour in the Mines. Personally I feel that the Mining Companies are trying to do their best; for instance when you go to Nsuta, you will find that things are running smoothly, so also at Akwatia. But that does not mean to say that we must be complacent and satisfied with what they have done. I think they ought to do more. As a matter of fact, the Miners Union is supposed to be one of, if not the best, unions in this country. I hope that they will be encouraged to continue in the spirit in which they are going, and that the owners of the mines themselves will also continue to be in the spirit in which they have been in their relationship with the miners for some time. But in this connection, I would like to know from the Minister, when he is going to lay on the table the report on the conditions of the miners. Up till now it has not been brought, and I understand that the committee has finished its work already. If the report had been laid on this table, there would not have been so much fuss, and we would have known the exact facts.

I would also like to know from the Minister whether he has made any investigations to find out the possibility of a bi-weekly payment of wages in this country. It looks as if some people want that. I know that the U.A.C. or the miners or some employers will come out to say that it is going to involve more work, and it is going to involve more money. But we have to find out the position. And I would like to know from the Minister if he himself has been investigating to see that it is impracticable or feasible.

[MR. KWESI LAMPTEY]

Then it seems to me that the Government tend to have the impression that the Labour Department or the Ministry of Labour should interest itself only in the Civil Service or employees of the Government. That is absolutely wrong. We appointed the Minister of Labour to see to all types of labour in this country, whether they are Government labour, commercial labour or mining labour; so that the workers in this country may have good standards of living and good living conditions.

Mr. Chairman, I now come to Trade Unions. I would like to know the position of Trade Unionism in this country to-day. It looks as if we have multi-Trade Union Congresses in this country. The position ought to be settled because so long as it is not settled the workers have a weakening power for themselves. It must be brought to the notice of the workers—we politicians and the Government, we have to do that—to realise that so long as there are two Trade Unions, that old policy of divide and rule will prevail, and it will be in the interest of the employers and not in the interest of the workers themselves. I would like to know from the Minister how many strikes have happened since 1952 and whether he has been able to settle all of them, because we will judge from the number of disputes and the fact that those disputes have been settled to find out, whether the Ministry is actually working well or whether it is not working well; and also to find out whether the relationship between the workers and employers is good and whether the workers are satisfied with themselves. Is it time, Mr. Chairman? Well, it is time so I will sit down. But I would just ask the Minister to find out whether the Factory Legislation which we passed last year is being put into effect. We do not see any signs about it at all.

I stand here to commend the Commissioner of Labour for the work he has been able to do for this country, and is still doing, and I hope that that dispute about the Drivers Union will also be settled very soon and amicably.

MR. DADSON: I would like to point out one fact—*(interruption)*—

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is time. You all know the time allotted, and if you keep on speaking, what do you expect me to do?

MR. DADSON: I am not going—can you spare me a little time, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

MR. DADSON: I see that in the Ordinance it is provided that unless any officer of a Union is a member of that Union he is not allowed to be an officer. That weakens the power of the Union. If any Union wants to engage any officer who is not a member of

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the Union he must be allowed to do so. As soon as that is done it will strengthen the Union and we shall have better results. I think that is not provided for in the Labour Ordinance and Government should see to it that that is rectified. That is the point.

MR. INKUMSAH: It is connected with this, and I think I will answer it straightaway, that since I took up the responsibility many people have approached me as to the advisability of amending this particular Ordinance. I am glad to say that consideration is being given to this particular amendment and it will soon come before the Assembly.

Mr. Chairman has been very liberal in allowing so many questions or speeches, and I am afraid with the little time at my disposal, I may not be able to cover all the grounds. I will however clear those that are of very great importance.

In the first place the condition of labourers on the farms. The Honourable Member who asked this question, and which question was repeated just now, will remember that a similar question was asked during the early part of this session, and the House was told that the condition of labourers in the farms has been the subject of an enquiry entrusted to one K. O. Gaisie with the necessary terms of reference and whose work so far covers only Ashanti. When a full report is made covering other areas, this will be laid before the House for debate. This in short means that the Government are not ignoring the labourers in any shape or form.

As regards the second point which deals with medical treatment to labourers, the same Honourable Member suggests a liaison between the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Health in the care of labourers. I have to inform him that there is already existing such liaison to which he refers and that is the reason why the Ministry of Labour upon the advice of its advisory committee is embarking upon the expensive scheme of providing medical aid to all migrant labourers coming from the North, French Territories and the Trans-Volta, with a view to stopping the spread of disease and aiding the labourers to reach their destination sound and fit.

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: Is it free?

MR. INKUMSAH: Yes. And as I said a medical centre is being established where migrant labour would be cared for free and attended to medically free for two or three days before they are brought to the South.

The same Honourable Member suggests that there should be a liaison between the Ministry and the schoolmasters for the purpose of registering school leaving pupils and finding them jobs.

[MR. INKUMSAH]

This I think is a very wild suggestion which cannot be practicalised by any Government. Pupils normally leave schools and if they are of age, it is their own duty to go out and find employment and where possible Government or other employers help them out by taking them on and, of course, I might add that the Labour Exchange is doing all it possibly can to fix them up.

The Hospital Workers. This question I believe has agitated the minds of many people and I may say that I am told that the pay for labourers was 4s. 6d. a day, but owing to the peculiar nature of their work, involving long hours, they were given a special rate of 5s. 6d. per day to make allowance for the extra hours and condition of service. I may say this, however, for the information of the House that since the workers' complaints and grievances were brought to my notice, the matter has been taken up seriously and the Minister of Health and the Commissioner of Labour are pursuing the matter and the 10th of April has been fixed for negotiations to take place between the representatives of the workers and the Medical Department; and I hope the matter will be amicably settled to the satisfaction of both sides.

A point was raised about Unestablished Staff and the security for workers generally in times of unemployment or old age. Of course, by Unestablished Staff we refer to such workers as office messengers, watchmen, and daily-paid workers and so on.

10.15 a.m.

In this connection the Honourable Member suggested a scheme, a Workers' Insurance Scheme. The question of this scheme had already been answered and it was pointed out to the same Honourable Member that the complicated nature of this sort of scheme in this country would involve re-registration of all the workers and so forth. Nevertheless the Government are keeping the suggestion in view for a better and opportune time.

Facilities for migrant labour. If the Honourable Member who raised this question had paid attention to my speech he would have heard or learnt what I said about Government's proposed scheme to assist migrant labour from the North to this place. I will not repeat myself and if the Honourable Member will take the trouble to refer to yesterday's *Hansard* published this morning, he will find all the necessary information he requires.

The question of gratuities of the victims of the Positive Action who have not as yet been re-employed by the mercantile firms—I am led to understand that these dismissed workers were contributing towards a provident fund before they became victims and their claim is that if the firms have refused to take them back, why should they not refund their contribution to the fund. I shall look into this matter in the interest of those concerned.

[MR. INKUMSAH]

Unemployment: This matter has agitated the minds of Honourable Members and they refuse to believe that there is no unemployment. I believe when making this statement the other day in the Assembly I qualified the statement sufficiently for Members to understand and appreciate what I actually meant. I said "there is no real unemployment in the strictest sense of the word in this country". I am afraid I have been taken too literally. Suppose a man says, there is no really educated persons in this country, does it mean that nobody is educated in this country? It only means that perhaps this country has not as yet been able to produce men like Shakespeare, Socrates, Demosthenes and so on; but it does not mean that we have no educated persons in this country. So in short what I really meant was that there are plenty of jobs to which people are not suited and if only people can adapt themselves to changing circumstances in life and accept any employment they can get and anywhere, they will agree with me, in the face of figures, that there is no real unemployment, except that people require only jobs to which they are specially suited, which in many cases is impossible in the present circumstances.

Recruitment of boys under 16 years from the North: This was hinted by an Honourable Member from the North. I do not really believe that boys under 16 years are being recruited for labour from the North. It may be that such boys themselves, adventurous as they are as other boys in other parts of the country, migrate to the South for the purpose of adventure and when they do arrive here and are faced with financial difficulties, they are compelled to seek for employment; because they must eat; otherwise they would be starved. Anyway I shall check up to verify the statement.

The same Honourable Member spoke about deferred payment of 15 per cent, a scheme which has been introduced by the Chamber of Mines and to which Government have agreed. I think there is some gross misunderstanding about this scheme and if Honourable Members will be patient, I will explain. About the deferred payment, the point is that the letter which was read out in the Assembly suggested that the scheme is to be compulsory; but in fact the scheme as proved later is voluntary and if people do not like it they need not enter it. There is also no intention whatsoever to change the Labour Ordinance, section 60. Now, to continue, I in my own humble opinion believe that the scheme is rather in the interest of the workers from the Northern Territories. Briefly this is the implication. The Chamber of Mines has had under consideration a scheme of deferred pay for migrant labourers to assist them to save money to take with them on return to their homes. One of the main objects of the migrant labourer in leaving his home to work in the South is to make money to take home. If he returns without any savings, this object is defeated, his family disappointed

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and others are discouraged from undertaking the journey South. The final effect is to retard the flow of migrant labour on which industry in the South is so largely dependent.

In order to assist the migrant labour in this respect the Chamber of Mines have proposed a scheme to which Government are in agreement, whereby a portion of the earnings of the migrant labourers would be withheld and not paid to them until they left their employment. In order to encourage the migrant labourer to remain at his work for longer periods, it is proposed that a bonus of £1 should be added to the savings of any labourer who completed one year's uninterrupted work and in addition, £1 for every subsequent full year's service. The Gold Coast Mines Employees Union has expressed its approval of the scheme, and I would say that the representative of the Mining Employees Union, the President, was present and I believe he represented the views of the people. I may also say that sections 59 and 60 of the Labour Ordinance stipulate that no deductions of this kind may be made from wages without the consent of the employee and of the Commissioner of Labour. In this instance the labourers have consented and the Commissioner of Labour has given his approval, and one or two Mining Companies have been asked to give a trial to this scheme, and I think there is nothing wrong with this scheme except, of course, that it is only in the best interest of the labourers themselves.

One point that was raised is why this scheme is not applicable to the workers in the South. I believe the workers in the South having seen the advantages of this sort of scheme applied that they should be included, but it was decided that the scheme is only being put to a trial and in the course of a year or two it would be decided whether this scheme should be applicable to the workers in the South as well.

The Honourable Member also referred to the maintenance of labour camps for which provision is made in the present Estimates, and hinted that these are being used by the Mining Companies. I must say that officers of the Labour Department pay frequent visits to these camps on the Eastern, Western and Central routes and detailed reports and notes are made as a result of which improvements in the buildings and facilities provided are being recommended; so that the extent to which the camps are being used can be more accurately assessed. Whether these camps are being used by the Mining Companies is a matter which will be looked into.

The Honourable Member for Anlo wanted to know the main routes through which migrant labourers travel to the Gold Coast.

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These are,

- (i) Eastern route: from the Northern Section of Togoland and from French Territories North and East over the ferries at Kete-Krachi and Akrosu.
- (ii) Central route: from the Upper Volta and territories beyond, through Bawku and Po to Bolgatanga, Tamale and South over the ferry at Yeji.
- (iii) Western route: from the Upper Volta territory Ivory Coast and beyond through Hamile and Lawra and South, over the ferry at Bamboi.
- (iv) Cattle route: South across country and over the ferry at Buipe (Morno).

An Honourable Member suggested that I should make a point of going round for the purpose of getting first hand information about the conditions of labourers all over the country. In this connection I wish to inform the House that immediately I was made a Minister I planned out my itinerary covering first, the Western Province, Central Province, Eastern Province, Togoland and Trans-Volta, Ashanti, and the North, and I have already covered the Western Province, visiting the mining areas and going underground myself, 1,200 feet below and seeing the underground labourers actually at work drilling and dynamiting, etc. As soon as the Assembly is over I shall take up the other sectors to complete my itinerary (hear, hear).

Mr. Chairman, before I am done with my winding up I wish to take this opportunity to inform the House of certain administrative arrangements affecting my Ministry and the Labour Department which it is intended to bring into operation on the 1st of April. As Honourable Members are aware, the Ministry of Labour was set up as a separate Ministry on the 1st November, 1952. This was the outcome of a recommendation by the Commission of Enquiry into the Health Needs of the Gold Coast, that the subject of labour should be detached from the Ministry of Health and Labour in order that integration of that Ministry and the Medical Department could take place.

In view of the important part that labour plays in the affairs of the country and in its economic development, it was decided to create a separate Ministry for this subject with, in addition, the subject of co-operation under its control.

Since taking office as Minister of Labour I have given consideration to the advisability of effecting further reorganisation by amalgamating the Ministry with the Department of Labour which at present operates as a separate unit under the Ministry. Government have now decided that this shall be done. This reorganisation will be on the lines of the precedent set in the case of

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the Ministry of Health and should result in increased working efficiency and economy of staff. The headquarters office of the Labour Department will be merged with the office of the Ministry and the Permanent Secretary and his staff and the Commissioner of Labour and his headquarters staff will thus be brought into a closer relationship. There will be some re-adjustment of duties designed to relieve the Commissioner of Labour and his Deputy of administrative work and thus enable them to concentrate on the important function in the field of industrial relations for which their experience fits them to the greater benefit of the industrial life of the country.

The regional and district offices of the Labour Department will continue to function as at present, but they will become extensions of the Ministry and will be responsible to me through the Permanent Secretary. The Commissioner of Labour will exercise a general supervision of the work of officers of the Ministry in the field, particularly in the sphere of industrial relations, and will issue instructions as necessary on behalf of the Permanent Secretary under my general direction. I hope that by relieving the Commissioner of administrative work at headquarters he will be freer to give his personal attention to the maintenance of good relations between employers and employees in industry throughout the country.

The position of the Department of Co-operation will not be affected by this reorganisation and it will continue to function as a separate unit under the control of the Ministry as at present.

The decision to abolish the Labour Department as a separate entity as from the 1st April has been taken too late to enable the reorganisation to be reflected in the draft Estimates and consequently provision has been made for the Ministry and the department under separate heads. This will, of course, be rectified in future Estimates.

Mr. Chairman, I ask that the question be put.

MR. POBEE BINEY rose—

MR. CHAIRMAN: What was it that you wanted to say?

10.30 a.m.

MR. POBEE BINEY: I wanted to ask a few questions to clarify the position, and I thank you that I have been given the chance now. What steps are the Government taking to get employment for those mercantile clerks who were sacked as a result of the last Positive Action strike? That is the first one. If you cannot get them employment cannot they be absorbed into the Government Service? The second one is this. Can the Labour Department settle disputes; if not, why? Can the Labour Department settle

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trade disputes—trade disputes I mean. If not, why? The third one is this. I should like to know if the Labour Department can interfere with trade disputes. And the last one is as follows. We have all heard in this country that there was a trouble and even workers went on strike; and these workers were enginemen who actually went on strike. Last year the enginemen went on strike; they caused trouble in this country. What were the actual remote causes that made these people to go on strike? That is all.

MR. INKUMSAH: If the Honourable Member had paid attention, I have answered the first question about the victims of the Positive Action and I have hinted that I would go into the matter.

The second question is whether the Labour Department settles disputes. I think as the Honourable Member himself has said, he saw it fit to congratulate the Labour Commissioner for his energetic and able service in connection with disputes and so on. That signifies that the Labour Department is there specially to see to the settlement of disputes and to negotiate as much as possible.

MR. POBEE BINEY: No! No! No! My question is this—

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot start all over again, I have to put the question.

The question:

- (i) "That the sum of £97,980 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Labour Department shall stand part of the Schedule".
- (ii) "That the sum of £15,000 provided in the Third Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Labour Department shall stand part of the Schedule",

was put, and agreed to.

Department of Co-operation

MR. INKUMSAH: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move:

- (i) "That the sum of £67,670 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Department of Co-operation shall stand part of the Schedule".
- (ii) "That the sum of £25,000 provided in the Third Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Department of Co-operation shall stand part of the Schedule".

It is the Government's policy to do all they can to foster a strong and healthy co-operative movement in this country. The benefits to be derived from co-operative effort have been amply

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demonstrated in other countries and already in the Gold Coast co-operation has taken its place as an important influence both economically and socially in the life of the community. Membership of societies is more than 34,000. The fundamental principle of co-operation is self-help and the pace of its development and the course it will pursue must depend primarily on the members themselves. The function of the Department of Co-operation is to guide the course of development and provide all the assistance and expert advice that it can, and it also has a very important responsibility of seeing that the accounts of registered societies are subjected to regular audit. The draft Estimates provide for only a modest increase in the staff establishment of the department and as it is explained in the Memorandum, the four new posts are required for normal expansion of the activities of the department. These include a Co-operative Extension Officer who will be concerned with co-operative educational duties. Good progress has already been made in education in the principles and practice of co-operation, and it is important that a senior officer should be available who can give his full time attention to this very important aspect of the department's work. An additional post of Senior Co-operative Officer has been included in the draft Estimates for dealing with the development of consumer co-operation. This aspect of co-operation has not yet reached the level of success which has been achieved by the Co-operative Bank and Co-operative Marketing Association and its Member Society, and much remains to be done to establish it on sure foundations.

The present establishment of senior posts in the department is 23 and of these 10 are held by Africans and 8 by expatriates. The Department of Co-operation has always been in the fore-front in the process of Africanisation. Already more than half the Senior Staff are Africans and when vacancies for which African candidates are at present being considered are filled in the near future, the proportion will be raised to over 60 per cent.

The Co-operative movement has three main spheres of activities, marketing, banking and consumer co-operation, each with its own central organisation, namely, the Gold Coast Co-operative Marketing Association, the Co-operative Bank and the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment. In addition, there is a co-ordinating body, the Gold Coast Co-operative Federation on which each of the three apex organisations is equally represented. This is a non-trading body and it is the intention that it should be gradually built up so that in course of time, it can take over many of the functions now discharged by the Department of Co-operation. Its principal function at present is the development of education in the principles and practice of co-operation. The Government have assisted the Federation in this valuable work by grant-in-aid in the current year, and it is proposed to continue this grant over the next few

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years, but on a decreasing scale as contributions from the societies towards the cost of the Federation are progressively increased. The Department of Co-operation itself undertakes formal education of staff of Co-operative Societies as well of its own staff and good progress has been made. This important work will be vigorously continued, but it is hoped that in due course the Federation will assume full responsibility for educational work among the societies.

The Marketing Societies which represent the strongest branch of co-operative effort in this country have continued to expand their operations and during the past season, some 250 societies have marketed through the Gold Coast Co-operative Marketing Association 48,000 tons of cocoa valued at £7 million. This represents about one-fifth of the total crop and is indicative of the very important part that the Co-operatives play in the marketing of cocoa. Other crops such as coffee, citrus fruits and vegetables have also been marketed through Co-operative Societies on a modest scale. During the past year, a start has been made in the co-operative marketing of copra at Keta, and I understand that the first co-operative enterprise dealing with the handling of fish will be established at Elmina shortly. The Boku farming experiment is now registered as the Kusasi Agricultural Development Co-operative Society.

In other countries, consumer co-operation has grown up in much more favourable circumstances than those with which the movement has been faced in the Gold Coast. Here it has had to meet with strong competition from trading organisations already firmly established and under these conditions, it was always realised that it could not be expected to achieve immediate success.

Recent events, however, have indicated the anxiety of the public including a great many of the Honourable Members of this House concerning the many losses, repeated theft of both money and cocoa and general irregularities occurring in the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment and Marketing Association, and cash deficits in almost all the Consumer stores, and I am more than sure that Honourable Members will be anxious to know the attitude of the Government in these matters and what policy they intend to pursue—

MR. BEDIAKO POKU: Yes, that's it!

MR. INKUMASH: —in the interest of the general public. In this connection, I would fail in my duty as responsible Minister if I did not make my policy clear on the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment and the co-operative movement as a whole.

In the first place, whatever might have been the obstacles by way of competition in the way of the co-operative movement in this country, it has become abundantly clear that the Establishment

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and other bodies have a greater share of the blame to carry. I am therefore reluctantly compelled to come to the open as to some of the causes militating against the progress of the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment and the movement as a whole. I am bound, therefore, to say that the consumer movement has not progressed as well as might have been expected and hoped. The degree of efficiency and integrity required for successful trading has not been reached and the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment has not had sufficient loyal support from its member societies.

The original intention of Government in establishing the Co-operative Movement, no doubt, was to enhance part of the economic resources of this country and place same in the hands of co-operators for their own benefit. In pursuit of a strict co-operative ideology coupled with Government's over-anxiety to help the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment to stand on its own feet, it made a sad mistake by starting from the top, instead of building the business as in Ceylon from the bottom by placing no control of any sort on the organisation. What the then Government did was simply to permit the co-operatives themselves and their executive staff to formulate certain vague and loose bye-laws which placed in the hands of those concerned undue and complete autonomy which enabled them to do whatever they liked without even the interference of the Government themselves, with the inevitable result that to-day, the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment, and for that matter the whole Co-operative Movement, have lapsed into degeneracy by neglect, profligacy, open abuse and audacious thefts. This unfortunate mistake has resulted in the present deplorable state of affairs in the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment. But if we admit that it was a sad mistake to place such a huge sum or guaranteed capital without any reasonable and sufficient safeguards at the disposal of an establishment which has now proved to be irresponsible, I feel that it is only reasonable and logically sound to correct that mistake at once.

10.45 a.m.

As Minister responsible for the Co-operative Movement, immediately I assumed responsibility, I took the trouble to go round several parts of this country where Co-operatives exist to see and check up things for myself; and from investigation of facts and my own observation of things I am convinced beyond every possible doubt that unless Government set in and exercise some form of control by legislation the whole Co-operative Movement in this country, like a bubble, will soon burst to the detriment of the Co-operators themselves and the Government which have a financial liability in the business. I hope that when the time comes, and very shortly too, for me to introduce the necessary and appropriate legislation to secure those safeguards which will place the

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Establishment on a proper and honest basis for the benefit of all as against a clique who are feeding fat on the Movement, I shall receive the full support of the whole House.

I have, therefore, taken a definite stand and intend unflinchingly to do everything I can to improve this state of affairs. But I am sure Honourable Members will be surprised to learn that while I am endeavouring to right the wrong, manoeuvres are being made in certain quarters by certain interested persons to sabotage my efforts; but I can assure you that if any obstacles are placed in my way from achieving my objective, I shall have no alternative but to advise Government to withdraw immediately their guaranteed capital and to allow the Co-operatives to fend for themselves.

It may interest Honourable Members to know that Government have given a guaranteed capital of £1,500,000 to the Co-operative Federation, namely, the Marketing Association, the Bank and the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment, and with this Government guarantee, the Co-operation are only paying 3½ per cent interest on this huge sum and by Government's withdrawal of this guaranteed capital, the co-operatives will be faced with an interest to the tune of ten per cent and we shall see how they can stand on their legs.

As a first step, the Government have decided to make a grant to cover the salary of a new post of Managing Director of the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment. This post has now been filled and the Managing Director took up his duties with the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment on the 18th December, 1952. I am confident that this appointment will do much to improve the efficiency of operation of the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment. I am giving consideration to what further steps can be taken to foster the development of consumer co-operation in this country.

Under the Development Capital Works Estimates, provision is made for the construction of offices for the Department of Co-operation at Kumasi and Nsawam to take the place of rented accommodation, and at Takoradi to enable a headquarters for the Western Region to be set up there.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move.

Motion made, and question proposed.

NENE AZZU MATE KOLE: Mr. Chairman, I am a little amazed that the Minister should in one breath condemn and paint a very gloomy picture of a department under his own supervision and in the same breath ask this House to vote such huge sums of money for its development.

MR. BEDIAKO POKU: That is honesty.

NENE AZZU MATE KOLE: It may be honesty. But I think that the Minister should not paint any bad pictures of the Department of Co-operation, or for that matter any department under his supervision to us. But there is one difference, and a difference that makes all the difference in the world, about the Department of Co-operation and other departments. Co-operation, in its true essence, is an effort of a people which comes out of themselves for their own benefit and for the betterment of their own position. I have always contended that the essential elements of Co-operation are killed the moment Government try to control it too much and the moment Government try to enter into Co-operation, or for that matter the activities of any such organisation which seeks to help itself fairly boldly—I should not use the word “boldly”—or in an overt fashion. I am amazed that under the eyes of the very vigilant Minister, such gloomy aspects of the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment could exist; and I would like to know, if things are as bad as he portrays them, whether there have been any prosecutions, in his own words, “for the bold thefts that have occurred”, and those “interested parties who are feeding themselves fat on the work of the department?”

I, for one, would not like to see abandoned the idea of putting Co-operation on its feet even though there are so many lapses as he has portrayed. But I think that in cases like this, where a person has a serious illness, he has to perform a serious operation in order to come back to life and that operation I think is equally very important. I do not think that operation can be secured by legislation. I think it is only by a bold act that the perpetrators of those acts that tend to mar the success of Co-operation in this department will suffer, not through Government legislation but through the ordinary process of training. I think that it is time the Minister adopted a policy of making these people really responsible for such acts and see to it that they did not hide behind Government's sincere desire to see the development of Co-operation to do nefarious things, by letting them drive on the ocean of the commercial world to such an extent that they will cry out for the Government to come for their assistance and then behave next time. I would like to know whether there are any instances where action has been taken by the police or by the courts and whether there have been any convictions.

Outside the field of the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment, I think Co-operation in general has advanced in appreciable form in the country and I think it is a worthy idea to assist Co-operation in every direction.

NII KWABENA BONNE III: Mr. Chairman, in support of the last speaker, a Co-operative Society is nothing but a trading concern or business.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: We can't hear.

NII KWABENA BONNE III: It is nothing but business. It seems unfortunate that the Government while financing or giving grants by way of subsidy to the Co-operative Society, were mute and silent and have seen that the whole business is mismanaged and is now showing great losses. The Minister concerned was very bold enough to come to this House and criticise a department under his control. By introducing a Bill to change the whole administration of the Co-operative Society does not make any difference at all. Where there are losses in any undertaking, society, company, the only means by which you can change the organisation of that company is by changing the administration. Losses or profits come about through the management of that society. If you get a bad manager who does not understand business and you make him a head of a department for sales, naturally, you must expect losses. In every big business house we have what is called a seller and we have what is called a buyer. If the company want to buy goods from any manufacturer, they send their buyer. The buyer is the businessman who makes a bargain to buy the goods as cheaply as possible. Then you have also a seller who makes a bargain to sell goods at the highest possible profit he can obtain. In the absence of these two, you cannot do a profitable business. In business you have got departmental heads. No business house will have only one head to manage and control the whole 101 different varieties of things which are divided into groups under various different departments. Each department has its own manager who is specialised in that department.

In this Co-operative Society we have people who know nothing about business. That is definite. They are ordinary clerks who do not know anything at all about trade or business and you have put them at the head; what will happen? The Government take public money to subsidise them, yet there is no checking. Even if an Auditor comes to check the accounts, what the Auditor wants are receipts and whether the receipts are actually the right receipts or false ones he cannot tell. He simply wants receipts in support of the bills; that is all. And if you produce the receipt in support of the bill, he passes it. It is not his business to check anything else in support. No, he is only for one thing; he must have a receipt for the monies paid, that is all. I do not know whether the Minister is aware that last financial year, the Co-operative Societies wrote off nearly £200,000 for goods supposed to be sold—

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: And they were never sold.

NII KWABENA BONNE III: —supposed to be sold to Mr. A.B.C. but the goods could not be claimed, the money too could not be paid, and the creditors could not pay their accounts, and the money became a loss to the country because it is revenue, it is public fund.

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Now I am strongly suggesting to the Government that the question of introducing a Bill to take over will not alter the position at all. This is pure commerce. It is the administration that we want to reshuffle. It is the heads of departments who send £25,000 of Government money away without an escort, when they can only say they want 100 police and will get them. Don't you think it is a disgrace to this department? It is most disgraceful and I can go on to say that the head of that department who was responsible for sending this money away without an escort should be made to pay this money to the Government chest. I mean, you (our own African brothers) came into power because we wanted to control our own affairs and we believed that the expatriates had been wasting our money. But what a funny thing? The first thing that happened since you took over was that somebody bolted away with £25,000. I suggest to the Minister concerned that the public will be so pleased if he will take drastic measures to see that whoever is responsible for the loss of this money must be made to repay it, whether by means of instalments, or if he is a person who owns a property that property must be confiscated so that next time the head of that department will be very careful about how he handles public funds.

This department ordered unnecessary articles, unnecessary goods that are not wanted at all by the public. If this department has been dealing with the farmers, it must know the farmers' needs. The farmers need only three or four things; they want tinned fish or canned meat such as sardines, corned beef and herrings (*interruption*)—Do not interrupt please—fish, tobacco, kerosene especially, bicycles and iron sheets and so on (*interruption*).

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Cement!

NII KWABENA BONNE III: Well, cement is not so essential, because the farmer lives in a remote place, and he does not want cement; he only wants roofing materials. He puts up his building with swish and therefore cement is not needed at all by him. (*Laughter*). You leave that to me, I will explain. When I was in business, I think some of you were not yet born, or you were only babies; but you are very lucky to be here now and to be earning large sums of money, so good luck to you! (*Laughter*).

Mr. Chairman, I challenge the head of this department whoever he is, to deny that a few years ago he knew nothing about business at all. He only stepped in because there was a hole where all rats could pass through (*laughter*). Mr. Chairman, the man in charge—whether he is a manager, or director or whatever his position is—if he is a good businessman he ought to have shown in his ledgers profits, debits and credits. He may show profits for a certain year when business is good and naturally he will show a bit of loss when business is bad. All business undertaken by people, (be they black

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men or white men), if they continue to show losses and losses all the time, cannot hope to last for more than six months. There are times when you make profits and there are times when you might incur a loss of five per cent or so. There are times when you might make a profit of over 100 per cent; so that you might make up the loss with the excess profit.

When you talk of ceiling price, people think it is the ceiling of a building (*laughter*), because they do not understand business. When you see firms declare that this is our ceiling price it means it includes all expenses, including overhead charges and the cost of the articles. And there is also what we call gross profit, that is everything included, and this is ceiling price and as such you cannot add anything to it. When there is plenty of cement on the market its price falls and these are the factors which lead to the influx of cement on the market. For instance if the warehouses at the beach are congested with goods, and the Government ask the importers to clear their cement from the beach to make room for the storage of other goods, and the importers have nowhere to stock them, the result will be that they will have to reduce the price of the cement. It becomes plenty on the market and is sold cheaply. But when it is less on the market the price goes up. And therefore I strongly support the last speaker that Government must not direct the affairs of the Co-operative Society. Co-operative Societies in Europe and other countries are controlled by the people and for the people, and they are not the concern of the Government at all. Some of you may know that Co-operative Societies in England have got banks. I know of a particular one which started with only 6d. It started with a small beginning and that is, 6d. a share. But now it has grown to own a bank and factories all over the country. The Government may give a subsidy or grant to a Co-operative Society so that it can supply goods at cheaper rates.

Therefore before I take my seat, I want the Minister to consider the whole position. Secondly he will never solve this problem at all by a Bill; he must concentrate on reorganising the management. And I must remind him that if he should do something about it, he must reorganise the whole Co-operative Societies for the good and benefit of the country as a whole. (*Hear! Hear!*).

MR. BEDIAKO POKU: I shall in the first place have to thank the Minister for his honesty in picturing the Co-operative Movement as it is working now to Members of this House. I shall have more to add presently.

When I was in school my teacher taught me that if you want to speak good English you must always check your grammar with your ears. So I have been always doing that. I do not think that Co-operative and Labour sound very well in the ear; Co-operative and Labour—they do not sound very well in the

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ear. So I will suggest it be removed from this Ministry and placed under the Ministry of Commerce, or perhaps the Ministry Education and Social Welfare.

If these Co-operative Societies have been working well in the country, I am sure they will be able to bring down the cost of living, because they are not out actually to make huge profits like the firms; they are out to help members of the Co-operative Movement. But due to the irregularities and many bad things happening in that movement still, there is no help at all, and all over the country people who are members of the movement are saddled with debt. I am speaking from experience, and I am speaking also as a member of the Kumasi Branch of the Consumers Wholesale Establishment. We have all along been forcing the Government to accelerate the Africanisation policy in this country, but I would like to bring to the notice of all that we are a very young nation and we must build on a foundation that is impregnable to corrupt practices. If not when we achieve our aim, we might go the way of some of the Eastern countries. The other day Honourable Members decried the actions of the Director of Information Services. Many people did not agree with us and we were accused of hating the expatriates. We do not hate any person under the sun, but we are out for justice and equity and fair play (hear! hear!). So whether you are black, or brown or yellow or green, when you do not do your work in the best interest of the public, do not think your pranks will be overlooked by us.

The Co-operative Societies were started in 1929, but the Consumers Wholesale Establishment was established in 1948. The primary aim of the movement has been outlined by the Minister, that it is self-help and also it is to help farmers and consumers to fight against the merciless trading combines. Whether they have achieved their aim or not we shall presently see. So I am suggesting to the Minister humbly that—justice, according to one writer, is the greatest interest of all men on earth—instead of saving and promoting the welfare of farmers and the workers they have brought misery and untold hardships to all. I understand a Trade Adviser to the Consumers Wholesale Establishment is grossly inefficient and as a result there is open theft, cash deficits and sometimes trade intrigues with Syrian traders for the purpose of clearing some goods at fantastically low prices in their own interest as against the interest of the Consumers Wholesale Establishment.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Shame! Shame!

MR. POKU: I understand this Trade Adviser—he is an African—before he was employed was running his own private business as an importer, and as such he was advised to break his connection with certain firms in the United Kingdom with whom

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he was dealing. In spite of the contract with Co-operative Wholesale Establishment—and here I am challenging the Minister authoritatively—he is still ordering goods from his old firms who pay him five per cent commission (*interruption*)—

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Remove him!

MR. POKU:—five per cent commission on all goods which come to the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment, and the profits or the commission goes to his own pocket.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: That is why I said remove him!

MR. POKU: Before he left his job, he was holding stocks of goods to the value of nearly £40,000, I am authoritatively informed. If I am challenged I am prepared to produce documents to support my argument here, that these bogus goods, these goods which nobody will buy, ordered for his own store, have been gradually and cleverly transferred into the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment's stocks of goods—(*interruption*).

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Shame! Shame!

MR. POKU: I understand also that this Trade Adviser has got dubious and questionable business methods which are the causes of the failing of the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment and I am requesting the Minister to look into the business character of this trade adviser, and if possible the whole matter should be referred to the Police in order to serve as a check to all those who are still engaging in such nefarious acts. I understand also that it has been the habit of some committee members to meet from time to time for the purpose of reducing some of the goods of the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment to rock-bottom prices while they themselves participate in the purchasing of those goods. The reason why so many goods are stocked in the wholesale is that these committee members often arrange with Syrian firms in Accra and Kumasi to clear those goods that are not sold by them, pay cash for them and they then dump these goods into the C.W.E. with the result that the C.W.E. wholesale is now stocked with heavy and bogus goods which nobody will buy—(*interruption*).

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: A serious allegation.

MR. POKU: It is true, Sir. The committee members no doubt have financial gain in such malpractices and I would like the Minister to tell the House what steps he is going to take in this respect.

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For a long time the Co-operative Movement has had a Co-operative Registrar. All these anomalies and the open tests mentioned by the Minister have been going on. What has this man done in order to check these malpractices. If he has done nothing then it means that this man is quite inefficient—

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Remove him!

MR. BEDIAKO POKU: There are many reasons why some of us stand up here and condemn certain acts of Government and we condemn also certain acts of the past Government. There was a man in this country—he was an expatriate—called Captain Cheesman. He did very well to establish all the Co-operative Movements in this country but because his policy did not agree with the policy of the then Government this man was forced to resign and is now away from this country. What do we see now? We see a complete mess in the whole Co-operative Movement. Why? Because it was said in this House about a couple of days ago that trained people should be placed in particular departments where they have had their training. We have known of one Mr. Chinebuah who is a co-operative expert, now working in the Lands Department or the Housing Department. Why? Because his policy did not agree with the policy of the people who are now in the Co-operative Movement. And what did he do? He had to resign and find his way into the Lands Department. Not only that. If I were to carry on I would cite so many—

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chinebuah is now in the Ministry of Housing.

MR. BEDIAKO POKU: Thank you. I only wanted to give an example and that is why I mentioned his name.

MR. ATTA MENSAH: Go on, bring more facts.

MR. BEDIAKO POKU: So this man is now in the Housing Department. I am suggesting that this man should be brought back to the Co-operative Movement in order to raise the present standard which is woefully poor. I am also suggesting to the Government to explore all avenues to draw people who are versed in the Co-operative Movement into this Co-operative Establishment so that it should be well established. Already Ashanti members have sent a resolution that they are going to secede from the Colony Co-operative Establishment because all over Ashanti the people are saddled with debt because of mismanagement.

We were then told by the Minister that we have a Co-operative Bank. I went to the office at Adabraka yesterday and all I saw was that there were many clerks employed by this bank, but there was no money in the bank at all. All that they do is that if they

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want money they go to the commercial banks to borrow, to borrow money from these commercial banks and then pay exorbitant interest of about £3,000 a month on money that they take from the banks—

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: What percentage.

MR. BEDIAKO POKU: I do not know the percentage. All I know is that they pay £3,000, which is a waste of public money. So I am suggesting to the Minister (*interruption*). The three per cent they pay is the guarantee Government have given them, but apart from that they pay special interest to the commercial banks.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: What is the rate of interest?

MR. BEDIAKO POKU: So Mr. Minister, I am suggesting that the whole Co-operative Wholesale Establishment, Co-operative Marketing Association and Co-operative Bank are in a complete mess and the Government should set in to protect the interest of the public. I am therefore suggesting to the Minister that in order to save the lives of thousands of illiterate persons, a Board of Directors should be appointed to control the affairs of the Co-operative Movements in the whole country.

Mr. Chairman, this is all I have to suggest to the Minister.

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: Mr. Chairman, a point was made about the money that was lost, that is £25,000. It is very unfortunate that the money was lost and we should not give the impression that we are thieves. In England such things happen almost every day or almost every week. You see people go to the bank to collect thousands and thousands of pounds to pay employees and they are snatched off. It is something happening almost every day. The people go to the Post Offices and the Banks and stage a hold up. It is very unfortunate that it has happened here. All I would say is that more security measures should be taken so that in future we shall not lose money like that. Personally, the matter is *sub judice*; otherwise I would say my opinion about it, but I am not going to say it.

Then I am very happy that the Minister has said that the Co-operative Movement is something which was created for self-help. Unless we realise that that movement is a voluntary thing and that it is for self-help, the whole thing is useless. The greatest mistake that was ever made was to have allowed the Government to meddle themselves with the Co-operative Society (hear! hear!) just as the greatest mistake that was ever made with the trade unions in this country was to have allowed the Government to meddle themselves with them. Because a trade union is a voluntary organisation in the interest of the workers and the employers too. In the same

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way a Co-operative Movement is a system whereby people come together in their own interest commercially, and I do not see the reason why Government should meddle in it at all. I do not see the reason why Government should control it, I do not see why it should be made a Government Department. It is altogether wrong. I feel that all that Government can do is to have an overall supervision of the Co-operative Movement, and let the people organise the thing themselves. We began the trade unions from the wrong end. The Government began to organise the trade unions, with the result that the unions became so pampered that instead of paying their contributions to see that the organisation is strong, they just slept in their arm-chairs and depended on the Government. They always think that Government will do it for them, and you know that when somebody pumps your pocket with money, he expects you to do something for him. In a way, they are allowing themselves to be bribed by the Government. In the same way because the Co-operatives are depending on the Government all the time to give them money, they are morally bound to do what the Government tell them. And what is also happening is that the co-operatives are becoming a sort of Government Department and you know that Governments nowhere run business at a profit. Unless the Co-operative Societies in this country are allowed to be in the hands of responsible and reasonable, people with shares in them, we are just wasting money, wasting the money of a few who would put in their money, and wasting the money of the Government; in other words, public funds.

But I think that the Ministry is necessary; I do not mean the Co-operative Department, but the Ministry. It is necessary in order to have an overall supervision just as the Ministry of Labour, although it does not employ all labour in this country, seeks the interest, the overall interest, of the labourers, either in U.A.C., S.A.T. or the Mines and so on. But I would say that the Ministry is not sufficiently Africanised. It is unfortunate that we are forced to bring in names here, but we have to point out because we are dissatisfied. Yesterday I mentioned Mr. J. S. Annan who could be made the Principal Assistant Secretary, but it was with difficulty that he was made an Acting Principal Assistant Secretary. I think arrangements, previous to his appointment were being made to make an expatriate who was junior to him and less qualified from another department to have taken on the job. I suggest seriously to the Minister to see the head of the department and the Public Service Commission to go into it to find out whether a person like Mr. J. S. Annan is not qualified to take up a job of that nature. Because as far as I know Mr. J. S. Annan left the Railways—many people say that he was trained as an Electrical Engineer, but he left. Some of you do not know the facts; Honourable Members do not know the facts.

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I think when Mr. J. S. Annan came from England after he had gone to Edinburgh to do post-graduate work, he interested himself in politics. Not that he was going to revolutionise this country, but he felt that the labour conditions of the people should be improved and he was the one who started the organisation of the Railway Union (*hear! hear!*). The then Government became afraid of Mr. J. S. Annan. Apart from this, Mr. J. S. Annan, whilst in Achimota organised Co-operative Consumers' Association and when he came back he tried to make it a country-wide affair. Formerly in the old days, that is in the time of the old Government, when they found that people were doing things in the interest of their own people the Government got annoyed, but when they did things in the interest of the Government then they became the Obedient Boys of the Empire. Because of this as I understand, Mr. J. S. Annan was threatened either to leave all those things or to go on with those things and he was given a choice. In fact, I want to make it quite clear here that Mr. J. S. Annan himself undertook to go to another department and when he went to that department he proved himself very efficient. Once a responsible senior officer there told me, "Jimmy is very good and he is as efficient as any expatriate". Now, a man of that nature has been sent to the Ministry of Labour, which is also responsible for Co-operation. I do not see why a man like that should not be made Principal Assistant Secretary.

But it was with difficulty that he was even made to act as a Principal Assistant Secretary. Therefore, Mr. Minister, I appeal to you strongly to go into this question of Africanisation in your Ministry and department, and when I say that I am not talking only of Mr. J. S. Annan, which is just a case in point, there are other Africans who are fairly qualified and who can be promoted as we were told yesterday. If you want to find out whether a man can swim, you can only do that if you throw him into water. Give them the chance and let us see that you have Africanised your departments.

NANA BOAKYE DANKWA: Mr. Chairman, I have got a few questions to ask about this society. We all know that in this society, we have one African as a Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies; but in these Estimates, there is another Deputy Registrar (Consumer Societies), contract rates. I suppose this man had been employed on contract basis. I would like to know from the Minister whether this Deputy Registrar (Consumer Societies), is an African. I would like to know firstly whether any steps are being taken by the Government to ensure that experienced and suitable Africans are given the important posts in the Co-operative Societies. Secondly I want to know whether the Co-operative stores in Kumasi have been successful and if so, are there any plans for opening more

[NANA BOAKYE DANKWA]

stores in south and south-eastern Ashanti. Now thirdly, whether this department has any plans to assist farmers in the mechanisation and improved methods of farming, especially in Ashanti. About half of these farmers are dealing with the Co-operative Society; they are selling more cocoa to this society, but it appears that no assistance at all is being given to the farmers in improving their farms. And so I am asking whether this society or this department of yours is ever prepared to assist the poor farmers who are in difficulties in improving their farms.

MR. A. R. BOAKYE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to know from the Minister how much has been realised since the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment was established in this country?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: What has been realised?

MR. BOAKYE: I would like to know how much profit, net profit, has been made by the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment in this country; and I would like to know first, the net profit made on the shipment of cocoa by the Co-operative Societies in this country. The Minister himself is quite aware that this department has been misappropriating Government's money, and it has been made abundantly clear that he is now making preparations to introduce legislation in order to control this society. Whether we will agree to the legislation or not is not the question at issue. But what I am trying to say is this. As it has been made plain to us that Co-operative Societies came into being as far back as 1929 and have been shipping cocoa to Britain and other parts of the world, I am quite sure that they have been making sufficient net profits. I know that U.A.C. and other firms in a year are able to make at least—if they buy 10,000 tons of cocoa—they are able to make about £100,000 profit net, if the Cocoa Marketing Board gives them about £12 10s. or £12 6s. per ton on cocoa—16 bags of cocoa of 140 lb. each—

MR. FITZ-GERALD: May I say Mr. Chairman, that the speaker's information is entirely incorrect.

MR. BOAKYE: Whether it is entirely incorrect or not, I know these commercial firms have been making sufficient profits and I think that is the more reason why this Government came out boldly to establish the Cocoa Purchasing Company. I will come to that.

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: Hear! Hear! It is a fact!

MR. BOAKYE: Now if we know that the Co-operative Society has been shipping cocoa to Britain and it has made money and if it came into existence since 1929, I see no reason why Government should continue to subsidise Co-operative Societies up to this present day. I do not think the accounts of the other firm—the

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Cocoa Purchasing Company—are controlled by this Government. And I think the staff of the Cocoa Purchasing Company are not paid by the Government and I see no reason why the staff of the Co-operative Societies should be paid by the Gold Coast Government. (*Hear! Hear! Hear!*).

Now on consumer goods. I know that the Society has not been very serious to make efforts in getting goods from outside this country; but it always tries to rely upon these U.A.C., G.B. Ollivant and the firms that have already monopolised the trade in this country.

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: That is not correct! (*Laughter*).

MR. BOAKYE: I know, I am a member of the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment in Bekwai, and I know also that some of the garments that are sold to the Co-operative Society are all registered trade marked garments and can never in any way be imported by the Co-operative Society. I say it is quite true—and the First Member for Commerce can tell you if these people do not come to him for garments. I know also that they do not buy only garments but they buy many other things from these people; and if it is the policy—if the Co-operative has a policy—of self-help and also to get goods at cheaper rates, I do not see how we can get goods at cheaper rates if these people will go to the commercial firms and buy the goods at already exorbitant prices and add some margin to the goods they have got. I think the very reason why the Co-operative Societies are not flourishing very well is that the margin of profit that they get from the goods that they sell is not sufficient. They only get the goods at such high prices that they find it highly difficult to put any reasonable margin on them when they put them in their stores.

I would only commend them for how they train people in their accounting system. I think that is really praiseworthy. (*Hear! Hear! Hear!*). I would say I know some people who are doing their best and they are manoeuvring to sabotage the Cocoa Purchasing Company.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Where does this come in?

MR. BOAKYE: This is really important. But I think it is a very good start we have made. If we are fighting for our economic independence, this is the way we should have to go about things. This is a company of our own; we are not to concern ourselves with the shipping of cocoa alone; we should have to see to it that when the net profits are declared they should also concentrate on importing garments and other things so as to open stores and supply goods to the farmers who supply the company some of the cocoa. I say that as regards their accounting system, I encourage them. But I would say if you are encouraging Co-operative Societies it is

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high time this Government ceased to bear the expenses of the staff since you are not bearing the expenses of the Cocoa Purchasing Company. I feel that they are all on the same level.

MR. DADSON: Mr. Chairman, I have just a few observations to make.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not be lengthy, you have only a few minutes.

MR. DADSON: Well, just a few minutes. I would not be long. I have to associate myself with the Member for Wenchi when he said that the Minister was praiseworthy for coming out boldly to criticise a department which is under his own Ministry. I think no bolder step could have been taken in that direction and he has to be congratulated fairly for that. (*Hear! Hear! Hear!*).

There are a lot of anomalies in this department. This is certain and I think a lot has been said about that, and I would just refrain from going to that direction.

I would like two or three questions to be answered me. I would like the Government to declare their attitude in bold words about this Co-operative Society. I feel that this department has been established in the interest of the public and has been so established that the public should in fact take up the management—the management of the funds and the management of the trade it does. But I feel that the Government are poking their nose into it more than we expected they should do. That is what is bringing the department into such an infamous position. The matter has been put plain to us this morning by the Honourable the Municipal Member for Sekondi-Takoradi and I hope the Members here quite agree that if the Government will clear away from interfering with the Co-operative Society set-up although Government have lent funds to it—I think they would do more than they are doing now. If the Government continue to take interest in it, it will mean that the Co-operative Society has failed. The idea is to give the money to the Board that is to be formed, and to leave them entirely free to organise their own business, and to conduct the marketing in the interest of those who are members. Government interference is too much, and it does not help in any way.

The case of Mr. J. S. Annan has been mentioned and I would like to stress upon that. If this department is to succeed, it must be left entirely in the hands of Africans who in fact have very practical knowledge about the business of Co-operation. That is why we are pressing that Mr. Annan who is engaged in the Ministry of Labour should be given the post of Permanent Secretary. If he is given this post, he stands the chance of having closer contact with the Minister in order to advise him as to the best approach to this problem. If this is not done, but is left still in the hands of

[MR. DADSON]

expatriates, although they will not sabotage the efforts of the Co-operative Society, they will not know how best to contact the Africans, and we shall still keep marking time. So I will suggest to the Minister that he should do everything in his power to see that the post of Permanent Secretary is given to Mr. J. S. Annan. Although it might be considered that he is creating a precedent it may be reasonable to create such precedent rather than leave that man out of consideration for the post.

Another point is this. The Co-operative Society itself is not allowed to import. If it is allowed to import, I do not see the reason at all why it should buy its goods from the firms. The firms order the goods, and sell them to the Co-operatives, may be, at wholesale prices. Although it may be a wholesale price that does not mean anything at all. Naturally, a member of the Co-operative Society thinks he can go to the Society and buy from them at a cheaper rate, and at the same time have profit when the time comes for the sharing of the profits after the overall expenses have been deducted. Already the firms have put their overhead charges on the goods that they have imported so that they are sold in that manner to the Co-operative Societies. So the Co-operative Societies are not able to raise the prices again. As soon as they raise the prices they become unpopular in the market and nobody buys their goods. I am therefore suggesting to the Minister to go into that and find out whether they are allowed to import, and if they are allowed, then for what earthly reason do they go to the firms to buy at all?

MR. POBEE BINEY: Mr. Chairman, I have one or two questions to ask the Minister. Is the Minister aware that the Marketing Association of the Co-operative Society which buys so many tons of cocoa each year would have made a bigger profit, but that there are some dirty practices going on between the Buying Agents and some responsible officers of the Marketing Association whereby each year huge quantities of cocoa delivered to the Association and paid for are again removed from the Association's sheds by some of the very agents and sold back to the Association thereby making money for themselves. If so, what steps is the Minister taking to stop this dirty game?

MR. BEDIAKO POKU: Mr. Minister, note carefully and answer.

MR. POBEE BINEY: The second one is this. Is it a fact that because of these irregularities, open abuse and theft in the Co-operative Wholesale Establishment and the Marketing Association, many of the Consumer Movements in this country have decided to secede from the parent body, if no action is taken by the

[MR. BINEY]

Government to stop these malpractices? In view of these questions, I am appealing to the Government that a Board of Directors should be appointed to examine all these things.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. ATTA MENSAH: Mr. Chairman, it has been suggested by a Member here that it seems Africans are not given chance to control this Co-operative Movement. Is it not a fact that the management of this department is entirely in the hands of Africans? In fact its management is a disgrace to this country and if we do not have an avenue to check it it will have serious repercussions on us. People come here to condemn expatriates whenever they have done wrong and I think we are in duty bound to condemn Africans as well when they go wrong. It has been stated that these Co-operative Societies have not got power to import. We know that these people are quite free to import anything they want. It has been said in this House that stocks imported into the warehouse of this department cannot be sold because nobody wants them. It means that their importer is in league with some bogus firms overseas, and they import what we do not want.

Also, the marketing side. This side of the department is something like a family affair. If I am a committee member and my nephew or cousin is a secretary to a branch, if that secretary misappropriates some money and the matter is referred to the committee, because the man is my nephew or cousin, I must protect his interest. That is why there is so much stealing in this Co-operation. Last year, somewhere in my constituency, a secretary embezzled £10,000. That money was the interest accrued to the farmers. The matter was reported to the committee and because some of the committee members were relatives to that particular secretary, the matter ended there. It is going on in all sections and branches of this department. Therefore I am suggesting to the Minister that drastic measures should be taken to see that this department mainly manned by Africans is improved.

I now come to the theft of the £25,000. Whoever was responsible, whether the Cashier, the Accountant or the Registrar—must be brought to book because it is a well-known fact in this country that when the Government are sending out even £100 from the Headquarters, Police should accompany that particular amount. The case of the Rev. Elder should be a lesson to them. It may be that the people concocted to cheat the poor farmers. Although the case is *sub judice* before the court and nobody is allowed to comment on it I am impressing upon the Minister that steps should be taken whereby these things should be checked. The money does not come from the Gold Coast Government. It is the profit that these farmers are making.

[MR. ATTA MENSAH]

Now, reference was made also to the Bank. I want to know whether there is a penny in this Bank, and if there is not a penny in it then what is the staff for?

DR. ANSAH KOI: I have been getting up several times and I have not been allowed to speak, but the Ministerial Secretary who is a Member of the Government has been given the chance to voice out his views.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Order, order, order.

MR. INKUMSAH: Mr. Chairman, fortunately or unfortunately, I have got only a few things to say about this big department about which I thought I would be heckled.

In the first place, some of the matters referred to by Honourable Members are so delicate, and because of certain actions that I myself intend to take, I do not propose to go into them by way of explanation. But one thing I would like to make clear is that the head of the Department of Co-operation was in no way concerned with the theft of the £25,000 of the Co-operative Marketing Association and he is not responsible for it. As you know the Department of Co-operation is a separate body which exercises periodical supervision on their accounts, audit and so on. The question of carrying this money to the farmers was not at all referred to the head of the department. Incidentally when this incident happened the Registrar, who is supposed to be the head of the department, was away from this country. If there is anybody to be blamed at all, I feel that it is those who actually handled the money, sent it away without any Police escort. And I do not know what the Government can do. The only thing Government can do is to protect the interest of the farmers whose money is at stake.

An Honourable Member referred to an amount of £200,000 which was said to have been written off. This is incorrect. Possibly the Member referred to a figure of £1,916 which appears to have been written off from the accounts for the period 1st April, 1951 to 26th June, 1953. All I can say in short is that some Members have suggested that there is no point at all in Government trying to control the Co-operation. It is, of course, not my own intention to have a rigid control over the affairs, but I would say this, that the public interest is at stake with Government financial liability involved. I take it that the Government would be foolish in this respect if they did nothing. If you are a father and you have given say £10,000 to your son as capital for trading purposes and you see that he is mismanaging the business it will be only wise on your part as father to set in and see that everything is put correct. In the case of the co-operatives it is clearly understood that they are supposed to be autonomous and what I would say is that if the

[MR. INKUMSAH]

public, and for that matter the Members of the Co-operation, are opposed to any form of control or supervision, then, of course, I reiterate that the only thing that Government can do—and I think I have made it abundantly clear that since this Co-operation has been brought under the control of my Ministry, I am not prepared to be a dummy, a mere figure-head over an establishment over which I have no control. One or two things must be done, either this Co-operative Movement is taken away from my Ministry or left to remain in a quagmire; because in the final analysis since this Co-operation is under this Ministry, whatever happens the blame will be put on me. And I repeat again that in view of these irregularities complained of and many of which have been brought to my notice by Honourable Members, it is my business to recommend to Government to resort to certain measures that will put the establishment and for that matter the whole Co-operative Movement on its proper basis and proper safeguards applied so that people's money might be made safe.

One or two questions: I was asked whether I am aware that cocoa sold to the Marketing Society is removed by certain agents and resold to the Association. In fact I am not here to say a lot of things; I do not want to speak, but I want to act, and I am acting very rapidly. I can say that such a report has been made just about three or four days ago. I am informed that some of the agents are in town. The agents who bought the cocoa and indulge in these practices are in town for the purposes of removing some cocoa for reselling back to the people. Already a certain quantity of bags of cocoa have been removed from the Marketing Association. And to cut it short, I say that I am not happy at all about what is happening, and although one Honourable Member has said that it is perhaps awkward for me to criticise a department under my own control, I feel I cannot do otherwise but to bring some of the facts before the Assembly and I repeat that I am going to recommend certain things to Government, and if Government do not take any action by controlling or exercising some control over the movement, then of course, Mr. Chairman, I shall have done my duty.

MR. BEDIAKO POKU: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. One question more he has to answer—

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Order! Order!

MR. POKU rose—

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No more of the debate is to continue.

MR. INKUMSAH: If the Honourable Member wishes I can give him the figures.

[MR. INKUMSAH]

Well, Mr. Chairman, I ask that the question be put.

The question:

- (i) " That the sum of £67,670 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Department of Co-operation shall stand part of the Schedule "
- (ii) " That the sum of £25,000 provided in the Third Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Department of Co-operation shall stand part of the Schedule ",

was put, and agreed to.

MR. DADSON: Before the Minister of Communications and Works moves his motion, I would like to ask the indulgence of the House to ask the Minister of Labour to place on this table the Auditor's Report on the Co-operative Society—the Auditor's Report on this department. And further to clear—(*interruption*).

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That debate is closed.

MR. DADSON: I am making a point of order—before the Minister of Communications and Works comes in—that the post which Mr. J. S. Annan is holding now is Acting Principal Assistant Secretary and not Acting Permanent Secretary, which is next to the Permanent Secretary.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS

Transport Department

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS
(MR. J. A. BRAIMAH): I beg to move that the sum of £276,170 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill under Head 28 for the service of the Transport Department shall stand part of the Schedule. I also move that the sum of £30,000 under Head DF/18 for the development of the Transport Department shall be included in the sum provided for development.

The scope, organisation and activities of the department are the subject of examination by a committee recently constituted for the purpose and, pending the report of the committee, I have provided only for a continuation of the present activities of the department including net increases of establishment as have been approved in 1952-53.

The present responsibilities of the department are best summarised by calling it the handmaid of all the departments for the collection and transport of their stores. It also undertakes certain responsibilities regarding the movement and accommodation of officials, but these responsibilities are secondary. By far the

[MR. BRAIMAH]

greater part of the department's work is concerned with the movement of stores. Charges are raised for all movement of stores of officials and revenue items reflect these charges. The department is not directly a public service, but rather an ancillary to other public services, whether it should alter its character in the future is a matter upon which I shall not make up my mind until the committee has reported. But I am sure Honourable Members will want to take this opportunity to make suggestions which I can convey to the committee.

A year ago the department had 132 vehicles. It now has 166 with 36 more vehicles on order. I should perhaps mention that the Police and other authorities have urged upon my attention the immediate need to increase the cadre of Certifying and Examining Officers by at least four more posts if considerations of safety are to be satisfied, and it may be with the wish of the House that this step should be taken without awaiting the report of the committee. I have not made provision for this increase in these Estimates, but propose to take the matter to the Standing Finance Committee at an early opportunity.

The activities of the Transport Department have naturally increased with the country's general development, and the £30,000 under Head DF/18 provides a first instalment towards the construction of the new transport station at Takoradi, the local point for imports and the place at which the department's increased activity is most concentrated.

The Africanization of this department has proceeded most satisfactory. There are now only 4 overseas officers in the department. An African has been promoted to the new post of Senior Assistant Transport Officer and he is now acting as head of the department.

I now seek approval for the inclusion in the First Schedule of the Bill of the sums of £276,170 and £30,000 under Head 28 and Head DF/18 respectively.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move.

Motion made, and question proposed.

MR. KODZO: I would like to start by congratulating the Honourable Minister for his hard work in the past. But to be frank, I must say that this department is not treating Government employees or servicemen well at all, especially in the rural areas or outstations. Very often Civil Servants who are going on transfer from place to place have to stand by for days, for weeks and months on end before they are served. Recently in the Krachi area, an officer of the Meteorological Department was going on transfer from Kete-Krachi to Akuse to take over there. He had to stand by for

[MR. KODZO]

one and a half months. Telegrams passed between Accra and Kete-Krachi, but this man was there and the work was accumulating at Akuse waiting for him. At the end of the month he goes to take his pay. This is a waste of public funds, and I am asking the Minister that he should pay serious attention to this matter and see that Civil Servants on transfer get their transport regularly.

Very often Civil Servants on transfer are asked to arrange for their own transport. It would have been a very good thing to arrange for one's own transport, but the conditions of hiring private transport are unsatisfactory. A man on transfer from Krachi to Akuse has to pay £9 for transport. But which private transport owner would carry a man with his luggage and children and everything from Krachi to Akuse for £9? Nobody would do that. And I am suggesting to the Minister that if he is short of transport and he has no lorries he should arrange and get more for his department and to see that officers on transfer get lorries.

The Minister may not know that the prisoners also are suffering. The K.O.P.s sometimes have to transfer hardened prisoners from outstations to Central Prisons, but the drivers would not take such hardened prisoners because they have to pay less than the ordinary passenger would pay, and I would like to inform him of this also. I gathered the information from Krachi and I had wanted to go and interview the Minister and to inform him of this. Now that this has come to the House I take the opportunity of pointing out to him that the prisoners at outstations should be supplied with transport wherever possible.

A few days ago there was a very serious accident. Two lorries collided on the Krachi road. One lorry with about 50 passengers on it rushed into a ditch, many people got injured and had to lie on that road for three days simply because the Police at Krachi did not get transport. A second lorry which was fully loaded with yams and passengers passed by and for lack of accommodation it was unable to convey the wounded. No driver would like to put his luggage aside to lose money—in order to take these wounded people, and so the wounded had to lie in the sun for three days until another driver who was going to Accra with an empty lorry took them away. So I am suggesting very strongly to the Minister again that the Police Station for instance in Krachi should be given transport or transport must be available at the Headquarters always to cater for people in such circumstances.

MR. G. O. AWUMA: The Transport Department is responsible for carrying the mails in some rural areas. What I see of that has satisfied me and therefore I join in the chorus of congratulating the Minister for the valuable work being done by this particular department. We have not got very much to grumble about, as

[MR. AWUMA]

far as the carrying of mails by this department is concerned. But in spite of the good work the Minister is doing, it seems that he has forgotten perhaps the most important people in that particular department. The purpose of the department is to drive motor lorries and convey goods from one place to another, and therefore I hold that the most important people in that department are the motor drivers.

On page 167 of the Estimates, Items 17, 18 and 19, provision is made for Artisans of various grades and employees on Scale K 2, 3 and 4. I suppose these include fitters or what we call mechanics. I wonder where motor drivers or driver-mechanics are placed. I want to ask the Minister whether all fitters or mechanics in this Transport Department are pensionable. I also want to ask whether it is true that motor drivers and driver-mechanics are not pensionable. If this is true then, may I know why? That will be an injustice. The driver's job, we all know, is a risky one. Very often they have to spend long hours in the sun when there is a breakdown or sleep under the sky which may be cloudy or stormy or rainy sometimes. Very soon in early life, youth may be taken out of them and they may be worn out and if they have no hopes for pension, I wonder how well they will do their work; and if finally they are worn out and thrown out of job what would be their source of sustenance? Therefore I ask the Minister to think seriously about this little point; first of all whether the drivers are pensionable. If they are not pensionable then I strongly appeal to him to see to it that they have this privilege.

12.15 p.m.

MR. ABAVANA: Mr. Chairman, I would like to find out from the Minister why bus services have been extended from Kumasi to Tamale and not to other parts of the Northern Territories. I remember the Minister telling me that it was the intention of the Government to extend these services to every part of the country, and I do not see why they have stopped at Tamale for a very long time.

In associating myself with the last speaker, I would say that the drivers of Northern Territories extraction who are in the department have always been complaining that it is very unfair for drivers to be driving for about 20 or 18 years and then not to take pension. They feel that they are very old, and some of them even go on to say that they have been driving with their sons and yet they draw the same pay as their sons. So I feel the Minister should take a serious view of the whole matter and if possible give the drivers a pension.

MR. QUASHIE: Mr. Chairman, as we were told the head of this department is at present an African, but he is the head only in an acting capacity. I hope this young man who has so many

[MR. QUASHIE]

years to give to the Civil Service of the Gold Coast and with high ability, experience and qualifications, will sooner or later be made the head of that department. I am also very glad that this department comes under the Ministry of Communications and Works, as I desire very much to point out to the Minister the misplacement of talents in a few departments under his Ministry.

I have two young men, Hutchison who works as Sub-Inspector in the Department of Water Development, and Mr. B. Gray who is the Certifying and Examining Officer in the Transport Department. These two people are qualified artisans in mechanical engineering. They will do very well in the mechanical section of the Public Works Department where their potential ability and knowledge will be of some use to this country. I think if the Minister sees it fit he should make the necessary transfers and place them in the departments where they will be of more use to the country than where they are now.

A Testing Officer, a few weeks ago, because of his interest in his job desired to extend his scope of knowledge, ability and experience by going overseas to cover the field—the examination of vehicles and testing. This man, when he had asked the Government to give him a chance to go overseas, was denied that chance but because of the interest he has in his job he left this country and he is in the United Kingdom now in one of the colleges. I would be very grateful if the Minister would grant a few pounds to this man to continue to cover the testing fields in Europe and the United Kingdom in order that he would be better qualified when he returns to this country. We have been told by my Honourable Friend from the Trans-Volta/Togoland region that we have no Transport Department office in the region. I would be very happy if the Minister will consider opening offices of this department in the Trans-Volta/Togoland region—at Keta (most important), Ho and Hohoe; three sections.

MR. AWUMAH: And Kpando!

MR. QUASHIE: Also when will the Minister consider providing the Prime Minister of the Gold Coast with an official transport as is obtaining in other countries?

Drivers and transport owners in the rural areas are severely punished if they have slight defects on their vehicles. Their vehicles are declared "not roadworthy", and the owners are asked to do the necessary repairs to these vehicles. These repairs in most instances take two or three days to do; by then the Examining Officer who visits the area once a month leaves and then the vehicles after repair are kept indoors without doing any work, because the Police definitely refuse to do the work of Testing and Examining Officers. I think it is time the Minister went into this to see to it

[MR. QUASHIE]

that the transport owners and drivers are not penalised unnecessarily, because after all they bring foodstuffs to the urban areas where they have the Testing Officers remaining in their stations for weeks on end. These are the few points I want to bring to the notice of the Minister.

MR. J. B. HARRUNA: Mr. Chairman, in congratulating the Minister for his good work done, I have a few suggestions to make. The Tamale bus leaves Tamale at 8 a.m. in the morning and arrives at Ejura at 2 o'clock. The driver will wait there for one hour, the reason being that if he arrives at Kumasi before 5 o'clock he would be punished. Now the Tamale bus arrives at the same time as the two trains—Sekondi train and Accra train. They coincide with the arrival of the bus with the result that the bus passengers cannot get taxis to go to their houses. They have to wait until 6.45 p.m. So I beg the Minister to change the time to 4 o'clock. That is my suggestion.

MR. ALIDU KANTON: Mr. Chairman, I have also to congratulate the Minister for extending transport mail service to Tumu. I wanted to congratulate him when we came to Posts and Telegraphs for the Post Office he has built for the people of Tumu. But Mr. Chairman, I should make the point that the Transport Mail Service is very slow to Tumu. The mail lorry arrives from Lawra every Saturday, collects the mails and goes back to Lawra; it stays at Lawra for three days before leaving there. So letters have to delay in Lawra from Saturday to Monday and leave there on Tuesday. If you write a letter to say Accra it will take nearly ten or twelve days. So I am suggesting to the Minister to review this and increase the transport mail services in that area.

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: Mr. Chairman, I should like to congratulate the Minister on the able way in which he has handled this department. In this department the Africanisation has gone well. I should like to recommend to him that the present Assistant Transport Officer should be promoted to take over the post of Senior Transport Officer. The man has the qualifications, he has the ability and the personality, and I suggest that the Minister should recommend him to take over the post.

The Transport Bus Service has done exceedingly well for the people travelling from Kumasi to the North, and I appeal to the Minister to extend the same facilities throughout the other parts of the Northern Territories. At present, if you start from Kumasi at 8 a.m. you reach Tamale at 4 o'clock. This is a vast achievement, and I appeal to the Minister to see to it that more transport buses are provided.

19th March, 1953

[MR. KROBO EDUSEI]

I also endorse the statement made by the First Rural Member for Anlo, that the Prime Minister should be given official transport. When we visited Monrovia the Transport Department there had such fine cars like Cardillac, Studebakers, Nash, Buick, etc., etc. These are Government Transport cars. They are not private cars. When any member of distinction arrives in that country he is given one of those cars to use. But here in the Gold Coast, they give you an old Humber Hawk. As soon as you get it within three months the car spoils. The other day the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources visited Kumasi and he wanted a car and they gave him an old Humber Hawk and it took him nine hours to return to Accra. I appeal to the Minister to see that suitable cars are given to the Government Transport Department to give to official people, because this is a disgrace to this Government. (*Interruption*). I have got my car. Since I took office in my Ministry I have never gone on any official visit; I go on my own and I do not require Government to give me any transport—

MR. KUSI: What about travelling expenses, have you forgotten it?

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: I have never collected any travelling expenses. You can ask my Ministry.

MR. KUSI: The Minister of Finance gave me figures.

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: I would stress that the Minister should review the matter seriously, that the Assistant Senior Transport Officer should be promoted to the post of Senior Transport Officer, not Assistant. The man has the qualifications, the ability, the personality and the experience and I appeal to you to view the matter seriously.

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: Mr. Chairman, I am also congratulating the Minister on the able way in which he has supervised this department, especially as I feel that the load on the Minister is rather too much. If I were the Prime Minister I would divide that Ministry into two.

MR. KUSI: "Into twice".

12.30 p.m.

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: I know I cannot "division myself into twice" (*laughter*). I notice that there has been some improvement in the vehicles that are used by the department. I quite remember that about August last year when we went to the Northern Territories we were provided with two cars by the Transport Department and not a single one could carry us beyond 20 miles. That was a very hopeless position. But in January this year when I went to the North again, I am pleased to report that we were provided with transport which was very efficient and we did

12.30 p.m.

[MR. KWESI LAMPTEY]

the journey comfortably. Not only that, the Transport Officers at Tamale were very efficient and methodical, because they so arranged that we were never short of petrol at any point which we reached. I feel it is something which is commendable. But I would like to know from the Minister whether he is responsible for only Government transport, because I feel that not only should it be a Department of Transport but the whole Ministry should be considered as a Ministry of Transport. If it is a Ministry of Transport, then I expect the Minister to look into the transport conditions in the country to find out whether we have got sufficient cars and lorries to do the work for us; whether we have good coaches on the railways; and not only that, whether it is possible to get ordinary coaches to be used in the country—I do not mean train coaches—but ordinary coaches as distinct from buses. I am happy also to hear that the department is well Africanized; that is, that an African is made an Acting Chief Transport Officer. I would not say that we should make him Chief Transport Officer tomorrow but let us test him for about a year and if we find him efficient and we come here and find that he has not been made a Chief Transport Officer then I must promise you that we shall have a very big row with you. (Hear! Hear!).

MR. BOAKYE: Mr. Chairman, in this House, it has been suggested that the Prime Minister of this country should be given a special official transport, and an example has been cited that in Liberia the President has a fine car. It is a very good idea, but I am saying that we cannot compare favourably with Liberia.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Why?

MR. BOAKYE: We are not self-governing now. We came into this House as nationalists and the people whom we are representing are suffering; so we cannot afford luxuries. The Prime Minister himself, when he was agitating, had his own car and not until we have had our self-government, we should never vote any money in this House to buy a Studebaker or a Cardillac for the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister I know is not asking for it; it may be that some Honourable Members are only expressing their opinion, and I have no objection to that. But the people whom we are representing will never like that idea. The Prime Minister was sent into this House to demand self-government for the people of this country; and his duty is first to do his best to secure self-government for this country and after that we can give him possibly a car that is lined with aluminium (*laughter*). On this question, we are all nationalists; we must walk in the streets as the ordinary people whom we are representing.

DR. ANSAH KOI: I would like to raise a point about the driving tests conducted by the Transport Department. I think driving in this country is very dangerous because of the bad roads and so many curves we have on the roads in this country. Many a time we see that some drivers do not know what we call proper road sense when driving vehicles on some of these roads, and we notice so many bad accidents have occurred because of this. I would like the Minister to instruct the driving test examiners to make sure that drivers possess proper road sense so that when they meet an on-coming vehicle they will know how to have some consideration for the vehicle approaching them. Sometimes we find many drivers station their vehicles on the road without regard to what is happening at all. Some of them drive so fast that if you do not take care you may go into collision with some of these vehicles. So it is very important for our Driving Inspectors to see that our drivers are really well qualified to take care of these petty things when they are driving on the roads.

Now, Mr. Chairman, one thing I would like to refer to also is driving schools. If we have driving schools in this country sponsored by the Government, that will also help in producing good drivers. So I am appealing to the Minister to consider the possibility of establishing such driving schools to aid our young fellows to acquaint themselves with better ways of driving.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Very good! (*Laughter*).

DR. ANSAH KOI: Mr. Chairman, a point on Africanisation. A lot has been said about Africanisation here, and we have now come to the point that we should demand Africanisation not only at the lower level in the Civil Service, but also at the top level. It is said here that an African has proved himself fit to be put on the top level. I am glad that that man is well qualified to be put on the top level. And we hope that the Minister will consider appointing this man probably to the post of Chief Transport Officer. There has been some rumour about the behaviour of the Senior Engineer Transport Officers in that department who treat the Africans very rudely and do not deal fairly at all with them. Some time it happened that even an important Member of the Assembly was badly treated by one of these Transport Officers. I hope that the Minister will see to it that while we are asking for Africanisation in staff, materials and everything, we are also asking for Africanisation in manners and behaviour (*laughter*)—

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Africanisation in manners and behaviour?

DR. ANSAH KOI: Yes, and behaviour. (*Laughter*).

[DR. ANSAH KOI]

Now, Mr. Chairman, Transport fitting shops. We find that Transport fitting shops are not well dispersed in the whole of the country, especially in the Togoland area. It is very inconvenient sometimes when you have trouble with your car and you do not get immediate attention for it owing to lack of workshops in these areas. At the same time, when you are travelling far away in Togoland you are unable to get any fitting shop which you can trust well to attend to your car. And I would impress upon the Minister to see that we have also these fitting shops in the Togoland areas; two or three or more would be very useful to ease the situation. For I have experienced such inconveniences, when I was on my medical practice in those areas and I have been handicapped many times because of lack of these fitting shops.

Mr. Chairman, the last thing is transit quarters. I do not know how many transit quarters are managed by this department. But we find that in the Eastern Province especially in the Akwapim-New Juaben and the Kwahu area, there are not sufficient transit quarters for use by those Junior Civil Servants. There is none also in Togoland and probably in the Northern Territories. But in my area especially, you find that those Junior Civil Servants who are transferred to that area find difficulty in getting transit quarters. So we hope you will try to get some of these transit quarters for those employees who are transferred to my area and also to the Kwahu area and so forth. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much.

MR. DADSON: When we congratulate the Minister and say he has so much in hand to do and that he has proved to be able, no matter how many departments are under his Ministry, we are right in saying so because one Minister controlling the following departments must need be congratulated. He controls the Posts and Telecommunications, the Public Works Department, the Transport Department, Railway, Civil Aviation, the Rural Water Development and I think the Meteorological Department; he needs to be congratulated, and I would recommend to the Government seriously, that some of these duties should be taken from him in order that his job may be made a little lighter. I hope our Northern Territories brothers have proved to us that they can give us their best men to serve this country.

It is very imperative that we should have road signs and have them quickly distributed on the roads throughout the country, especially the main trunk roads. We have given the authority to the examiners to pass illiterate people in driving, and if these people do not in fact come across the road signs, they will not be able to drive properly because they have scarcely any knowledge of reading. So it is essential that we should have road signs all along the main trunk roads.

[MR. DADSON]

I spoke last year about taxi-meter, and in fact, I looked very unpopular with the drivers, but I would say it again. At that time I had not gone to the United Kingdom, but I have been there this time to see how very helpful the taxi-meter is to the community and the drivers themselves. You know what to do as soon as you alight from the car and there is no quarrel over the fare. If you care to tip, that is a different thing but the taxi-meter records everything, every mileage that the car has covered; so that you pay without any grudge at all. So I will ask the Minister if he could find the means to introduce a taxi-meter into this country.

I will also refer to the basis on which the Minister distributes transport in this department. In my area, there is not one lorry—an important area like that. When Honourable Members come round, it is our Honourable Miners who rather give their transport—I mean the authorities of the Mines. But if we had Government transport, they would also have the advantage of using it, especially our Northern Territories brothers who often come round. So I am asking if the Government would consider to put one transport in my area; it would please me a lot. Thank you.

MR. YEBOA-AFARI: We thank the Minister for spreading the services of transport over the country. The purpose of creating more transport offices is so that people will not be given the trouble of travelling to the municipal areas say Kumasi or Accra. But at the moment, people travel from the rural areas to Accra and Kumasi in order to get driving licences or to change their motor licences, and, I think, the number of Certifying and Examining Officers is not sufficient. I wish the Minister will see to increase the number so that we get them spread all over the country.

I think these driver apprentices who come to take tests for driving licences are put in a very difficult position in these days. The rule is that only twenty people should be examined on a particular day.—I have seen some of these rules. When you go and you pay your testing fee you are asked to come on a particular day say, two months or three months after. But is it possible for all the twenty people we asked to come on a particular day to be present? And if any failed to be present on that day, then it means they would be put off to another distant date and the Testing Officer on that day would not do full work because the rest scheduled to follow next would not also come; or if they came at all they could not have the test. So I will suggest that instead of giving them a day on which to come, after say the first twenty, those who come on that day according to the order of priority, should be tested on that day. That is, you have the Register, Mr. A is number 20, the order is 21, 22 so that on that day names are called and if No. 21 is not there and No. 23 is there he must be examined. In that case we shall get everyday 20 people to be tested and people

[MR. YEBOA-AFARI]

who travel from say, Sunyani to Accra for driving tests will not have to go back and come again. In some cases some of them are killed in accidents in their going and coming back. If they had the test on the spot they would not have the accident. Sunyani is far away from Kumasi and we are thankful to the Minister that an office is opened there but the test is held once in a month and the sad thing about it is that when you fill your form it is not stamped at Sunyani but you carry the form to Kumasi to be stamped before you can have the test at Sunyani. Therefore people find it advisable and expedient to come and have the test and the stamping altogether in Kumasi. So you find that the office is not being used by the drivers' mates and I wish to suggest that the stamping and everything should be done there.

12.45 p.m.

MR. B. F. KUSI: I feel that it is the duty of the Police to check careless driving but at the same time it is the duty of the Transport Department to promote good driving. I see in this country that there is a lot of careless driving, and if the Transport Department does not establish good relationship between the drivers and that department, careless driving will also be carried on. In this case I suggest that a driving school, which has been mentioned, must be introduced into this country. It is most important. Many people have lost their lives as a result of careless driving. Drivers when they see the Police try to behave as if they are good drivers but as soon as they go past the Policemen you will see that they drive carelessly. You will see a taxi driver just sitting on his seat with his right hand just outside the door and driving carelessly in the street and there are so many drivers in this country and if you establish a driving school in this country then we should expect any driver who has licence to have come out from this school and would have been taught the regulations and given very good training. The Department of Transport should also give series of lectures to the drivers especially those drivers who do not take life seriously. They must not forget that life is very important and they should drive carefully. Some Police drivers even are not very good drivers. Some of them are not good drivers at all so both the Police drivers and the ordinary drivers in the country need very good training. So we must establish a driving school in this country.

MR. S. D. DOMBO (DUORI-NA): I wish to go on straight with my point, Mr. Chairman. My appreciation of the service of the department is understood. I would like to suggest to the Ministry whether it will not be possible to open a testing centre at Wa which is on the western section of the Northern Territories in order to help drivers in that part to take tests there. There is one thing too concerning these driving tests. When one takes a

[MR. DOMBO]

driving form in Accra he is compelled to take the test in Accra. Maybe the party must have come far away from Lawra to this place to take the form but he is bound to come from Lawra to take the test here. Tamale is our testing centre in the Northern Territories and if such a form will not be entertained in Tamale, I do not know whether it is a rule from this Ministry or an administrative arrangement.

There is one thing which I must also touch regarding these driving tests. There is some satisfactory arrangement made by the Transport Department that when one takes a driving form he is given a definite date to come and have his test. I think that arrangement is good because formerly people would come in their hundreds waiting for one day to take the test; not all of them would get the chance and they would have to come back every day. But now that there is such an arrangement if the number is 20 the party knows that if he comes on Tuesday the 1st of March, on that day he will be tested, therefore he rests assured and he goes about his other business. But if they were to come every day *en bloc* hoping to get a test that day and they continue to come every day without having the test, that is bad. Therefore the new arrangement should be welcomed.

The driving school also suggested by former speakers: the other day I was listening to the B.B.C. and I heard from the broadcast that in England there are such things as driving schools and the Ministry of Transport was advising the managers of these schools to see to it that learners do qualify properly before they are put to the test. I therefore feel that it is very essential that this country should also establish a school that will check this so-called careless driving because they will be taught all the details of driving and therefore when they come out from there they will know that they are going to drive as a business and not to show to bystanders how best they can speed in their cars. Therefore it is very very essential that we should have a driving school in the country.

DR. J. B. DANQUAH: An outstanding instance of the wisdom of employing Africans in senior posts appears in this department. Last year the overseas pay was £2,020; this year there is overseas pay of only £460, a reduction of £1,560 due mainly to the fact that Africans are being employed in the senior posts and I ask the Government to continue that policy.

MR. C. E. OSEI: This session when I had the occasion to speak during the debate on the Police Estimates, I suggested that a driving school should be opened in this country for drivers to be taught how to drive properly. That has been stressed in the course of debating the Transport Estimates and I think the Minister will take it into consideration and work hand in hand with the Police to establish this important school.

[MR. OSEI]

Then again I want to draw the Minister's attention to the rumours that have been circulating in this country about Testing Officers. There is a rumour going about that drivers' licences are being bought.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. OSEI: An instance has been quoted to me that butchers, carpenters, masons and other people who are not connected with driving at all have been buying licences. This is a very dangerous step and I am asking the Minister to go into this carefully and to see that Testing Officers confine themselves to the specific duty of testing people to find out whether they are qualified to drive and not to sell licences to the detriment of the public.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Very good.

MR. ATTA MENSAH: We thank Honourable Members for the congratulatory speeches made to the Minister on the question of Africanisation in this department. It has been made clear that it is the intention of my Minister or this Ministry to see that all top posts are occupied by Africans. At the moment the matter is before the Public Service Commission and as such it is hoped that an African will occupy the position. It may even be possible that his deputy will also be an African.

Now, about the durability of the Government Transport cars. Two new Chevrolet cars will be added to the fleet as from 1st April. Some Members also made special reference to the car for the Prime Minister. That is a matter for the Government to decide.

A member also made reference to some accident which happened at Kete-Krachi that Government Transport was not able to convey the injured persons to the nearest hospital.

MR. KODZO: I did not say that. What I said was, if there was a provision for transport in that area the wounded would have been carted in time by the Police to the nearest hospital.

MR. ATTA MENSAH: That is a matter for the Police and not for the Transport Department.

A Member also wanted to know whether fitters and drivers are pensionable. Fitters are pensionable but drivers are on daily rates of pay according to the Lidbury/Gbedemah recommendations.

MR. AWUMA: Does it mean that you cannot do anything about it?

MR. ATTA MENSAH: Well, it is a matter for consideration.

Members also stated that there is frequent careless driving in this country and that is due to the fact that drivers are not very well and properly tested. I will not accept that accusation. They are properly tested and that is why we are making application to the Finance Committee to increase the number of testing officers. It

[MR. ATTA MENSAH]

is a fact that experienced drivers go to ditch and the Honourable Member Dr. Ansah Koi himself was complaining that careless driving was rampant in this country, but I may say that he himself has had one hundred and one accidents when driving. He also made mention that a Member of the Assembly was not properly treated by the Transport Department. This matter has not come before the authorities and if he is prepared to bring evidence the matter will be gone into.

Another Member also asked whether it is the intention of Government to establish transport stations in the Trans-Volta area. The position at the moment is as follows—the department has four main stations: Accra, Kumasi, Tamale and Sekondi-Takoradi with workshop facilities. Sub-depots are opened at Yeji, Navrongo, Lawra and Bole. Now proposals are before a committee which will make it possible to have additional sub-stations to be opened at Wa, Koforidua, Ho, Cape Coast, Dunkwa and Bolgatanga and Tema.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: What about Jasikan.

MR. ATTA MENSAH: It will be considered as well as Tarkwa.

A Member also made reference to road signs and taxi-meters. These are matters for the Police. Members also made reference to driving school. It is known in this country that there are driving schools being run by private people and the Chief Transport Officer has taken upon himself to visit these schools and advise the pupils.

MR. AWUMA: Advise or control?

MR. ATTA MENSAH: The extension of bus service to the Northern Territories beyond Tamale is under consideration.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Minister of "under consideration".

MR. ATTA MENSAH: Mr. Chairman, we shall take all that Honourable Members have said into consideration and as such I ask that the question be put.

The question:

- (i) "That the sum of £276,170 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Transport Department shall stand part of the Schedule".
- (ii) "That the sum of £30,000 provided in the Third Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Transport Department shall stand part of the Schedule".

was put, and agreed to.

House resumed.

The House was adjourned at one o'clock to Friday the 20th March, 1953, at 9 o'clock.

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FRIDAY, 20TH MARCH, 1953

The House resumed at 9 a.m.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair).

PRAYERS

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 19th March, 1953, were confirmed.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS

Accommodation for Railway Employees at Nkawkaw

247. NANA KOFI ADU II asked the Minister of Communications and Works whether he is aware that houses or accommodation provided for the Railway employees at Nkawkaw are inadequate and that a large number of the employees are living in hired rooms without housing allowance from Government?

MINISTERIAL SECRETARY TO THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS (MR. ATTA MENSAH): I am aware that certain Railway employees at Nkawkaw are not provided with railway quarters. It is not Government's policy either to provide free accommodation for its staff or to pay housing allowances to employees hiring accommodation.

The provision of quarters, for which rent is paid, is limited by the funds available. If and when funds become available for a further railway housing programme provision for Nkawkaw will be included.

NANA KOFI ADU II: Have funds been voted in the next financial year for the building of railway quarters for those who are hiring rooms outside the railway quarters or premises?

MR. ATTA MENSAH: I have already said that when funds become available Nkawkaw will be included.

DR. ANSAH KOI: I want to know from the Minister whether in view of the fact that Government are renting houses in Accra as Junior Transit Quarters or bungalows for Civil Servants, Government will do the same thing in all other towns for the Civil Servants?

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS (MR. J. A. BRAIMAH): This matter is still under consideration, but the transit quarters are just for people passing through on transfer from one place to another and they are not intended for servants or officers to stay in them for more than two weeks.

NANA KOFI ADU II: For whom are these accommodation allowances given in the Railway Administration, as shown in the Estimates, page 7, Item 14.

MR. BRAIMAH: I cannot give the answer now, Sir. I need notice.

Quarters for Enginemen and Guards at Dunkwa Station

248. NANA KOFI ADU II:

- (a) Is the Minister aware that the corrugated iron sheet sheds at Dunkwa Railway Station are being used as Quarters for Enginemen and Guards?
- (b) If so, does he consider these sheds fit for human habitation or for such important Railway workers?

MR. ATTA MENSAH:

- (a) Temporary aluminium housing is being used to accommodate railway staff at Dunkwa.
- (b) This type of housing is widely used both by Government departments and commercial firms, and, whilst perhaps lacking in aesthetic beauty, and space is both cool and healthy. Its use has been resorted to in order to provide as much accommodation as available funds will permit. Construction of better houses will be put in hand when funds are available.

MR. B. F. KUSI: I want to know whether these aluminium houses provided for the railway men have ventilated windows.

MR. ATTA MENSAH: They have windows.

MR. KUSI: I want to know whether they have ventilated windows.

MR. BRAIMAH: I require notice.

NANA KOFI ADU II: Is this type of houses which are widely used both by Government Departments and Commercial Firms not used only as offices by the Government and Commercial Firms? And if so, why is the one at Dunkwa railway station used as a dwelling house for men?

MR. BRAIMAH: The aluminium houses are used by firms for offices, but as I have said it was just to provide some sort of accommodation for the employees. But they will be replaced. We admit that they are not suitable for the housing of the staff.

MR. KUSI: Is this a part of the housing scheme introduced by the Minister of Local Government and Housing?

MR. BRAIMAH: No, Sir.

NANA KOFI ADU II: For health reasons, will the Minister try to have these removed immediately in the next financial year and give better accommodation to these people, especially the enginemen who stand by fire?

MR. BRAIMAH: The answer is, no, Sir; because we have not got the funds.

Engine Shed for Dunkwa Railway Station

249. NANA KOFI ADU II:

- (a) Is the Minister aware that Dunkwa Railway Station needs a Locomotive Engine shed?
- (b) If so, when will the Location be erected as the railway station is always congested with vans, trucks and engines which cause delays to trains, especially goods trains?

MR. ATTA MENSAH:

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) The Locomotive Running Shed will be completed next financial year, but I must disabuse the Honourable Member of the notion that this will relieve congestion in the station. This congestion can be relieved only by redesigning Dunkwa station but finances cannot be made available for this work until more urgent tasks have been completed.

MR. KUSI: Will you please tell us what the more urgent tasks are, which have to be completed before this housing at the railway station at Dunkwa is given priority consideration?

MR. BRAIMAH: The new construction of the railway line from Achiase-Kotoku is one, Accra-Tema is another, Tema-Shai Hills is another.

Railway Coach Attendants

250. NANA KOFI ADU II:

- (a) Under how many grades or classes are the Railway Coach Attendants placed?
- (b) Is there any hope of promotion for them as Guards?
- (c) What qualifications are required of them to be promoted Guards?

MR. ATTA MENSAH:

- (a) Three grades.
- (b) Yes, Sir, if they have the necessary qualifications.
- (c) All recruits to Train Staff Grade V, i.e., Trainee Guards were required formerly to hold Standard VII Certificates with distinction. Now that the Standard VII Certificate has been abolished a special examination will be set by the Railway Administration.

Expenditure on Road Construction in 1951-52

262. MR. J. G. AWUAH asked the Minister of Communications and Works what was the actual total expenditure made by the Public Works Department on road work during the financial year, 1951-52?

MR. ATTA MENSAH: The total actual expenditure on road works in the financial year 1951-52 was £1,214,658.

MR. AWUAH: Is the Minister aware that Public Works Department labourers hang about on the road owing to lack of supervision?

MR. ATTA MENSAH: Yes, Sir. I am aware and steps are being taken to remedy the situation.

MR. AWUAH: Can the Minister tell us this morning whether all the materials in the stores of the Public Works Department are well secured?

MR. ATTA MENSAH: Yes, Sir, they are well secured.

MR. AFOKO: What proportion of this amount was spent in the Northern Territories?

MR. ATTA MENSAH: I require notice.

DR. ANSAH KOI: Does this amount include expenditure on feeder roads and how much was spent out of this for feeder roads?

MR. ATTA MENSAH: This amount was spent on roads that are the responsibility of the Central Government. Feeder roads are not the responsibility of the Central Government.

319. MR. W. E. A. OFORI ATTA asked the Minister of Communications and Works what formula will the Government adopt to offer grants to aid Local Councils to maintain these secondary roads satisfactorily?

MR. ATTA MENSAH: No formula has yet been worked out.

MR. OFORI ATTA: Have the Government relegated any roads to second class, and if so how are those roads being maintained?

MR. BRAIMAH: A recommendation, Sir, was made by the Central Roads Advisory Committee but the whole question has been referred to them again for further consideration.

Maintenance of Roads—Responsibility for

320. MR. OFORI ATTA:

- (a) Are the Government contemplating the relegation of any roads at present managed fully by the Central Government to the status of third class roads to be managed and financed fully by the Local Councils?

- (b) Will the Government specify such roads in (i) the Colony (ii) Ashanti (iii) Northern Territories (iv) Togoland?
- (c) Is the present road policy designed to obtain improvement in the standard of the existing roads?
- (d) Has any attempt been made to estimate the cost of the additional burden which the present road policy of the Government will place on these new Local Councils?

MR. ATTA MENSAH:

(a) (b) and (d) I refer the Honourable Member to the answer given to his Question No. O/318. The classification of the roads into second and third class is under consideration by the Roads Advisory Committees and is not yet complete. I understand that the extent of the financial assistance which will be available to local authorities is still under consideration by my Honourable Friend the Minister of Local Government and Housing.

(c) Yes, Sir.

First Class Roads built by Government

321. MR. OFORI ATTA:

- (a) What new first class roads have been built by the Government in (i) 1951 (ii) 1952?
- (b) How many of such roads are in the Akyem Abuakwa Constituency?

MR. ATTA MENSAH:

(a) On the assumption that the Honourable Member is referring to main trunk roads, the following new first class roads were under construction by or for the Government:—

1951: Kadjebi-Papase
Kintampo-Morno

1952: Kadjebi-Papase
Kintampo-Morno
Suhum-Koforidua.

(b) The Honourable Member will be aware that the last of these is in the Akyem Abuakwa Confederacy.

9.15 a.m.

MR. OFORI ATTA: How many of these roads have been completed?

MR. ATTA MENSAH: None has actually been completed.

DR. ANSAH KOI: Does the Government's attempt to improve the roads include getting rid of the so many curves and also widening the roads?

MR. ATTA MENSAH: It includes re-alignment.

MR. OFORI ATTA: With this rate of progress of five roads in about a period of three years, how are you going to solve the road shortage or the communication shortage problem?

MR. BRAIMAH: That is not all, Mr. Speaker. It should be realised that during 1951 the Public Works Department carried out about 140 miles bitumen surfacing, constructed 66 miles of new roads, re-constructed or constructed 133 bridges and culverts, and carried out major improvements on 153 miles of gravel roads and improved 41 miles of roads under the care of the Regional Administration. So if you bring all together, you will find that the progress is considerable.

MR. OFORI ATTA: Is the Minister satisfied with this rate of progress, or are there some difficulties which must be removed to enable us to carry on with a progressive road programme?

MR. BRAIMAH: With the few plants that we have to work on roads, I am satisfied; but I think more can be achieved if the plants we have at present on order are delivered.

MR. KUSI: How long will these take to be delivered?

MR. BRAIMAH: We should receive some of them within the next six months.

Feeder Roads

322. MR. OFORI ATTA:

(a) What feeder roads have been built by the Central Government in (i) 1951 (ii) 1952?

(b) How many of such roads are in the Akyem Abuakwa Constituency?

MR. ATTA MENSAH: The construction of feeder roads is not now a responsibility of the Central Government, except in as much as they are required for departmental purposes, such as swollen shoot control and forest reserve management, and can be constructed by the departments concerned. No central records of the date of construction of such roads are maintained but I am making enquiries and will communicate with the Honourable Member in due course.

MR. OFORI ATTA: By "responsibility" in this context, does the Minister mean managerial or financial responsibility?

MR. BRAIMAH: I mean managerial.

MR. OFORI ATTA: Does that therefore mean that the Central Government are responsible for providing the finances for building feeder roads?

MR. BRAIMAH: I will say that the Honourable Member is aware that Government give grants for Local Community Development and some funds are also given to Local Governments as grants-in-aid.

MR. OFORI ATTA: Does this mean that the Government policy is that all feeder roads must be constructed by Local Authorities and not by the Central Government?

MR. BRAIMAH: Well, that is the aim of the Central Government.

MR. OFORI ATTA: In view of the conclusion of Seers and Ross, the Economists, that the greatest impediment to our development is the absence of feeder roads and other roads, and the greatest contributory factor to inflation is the shortage of communication facilities, would this Government undertake to bear a large part of the financial responsibility for feeder roads and managerial responsibility for feeder roads?

MR. BRAIMAH: The Government have already given priority to communications and it follows that they will give more grants or take more responsibility for the construction of feeder roads. But it will be appreciated that if Local Governments and some other bodies will come in to help it will speed up the work and give the people more roads than if they were to rely entirely upon the Central Government to do everything.

Accra-Kumasi Road

348. NANA KWAME GYEBI ABABIO asked the Minister of Communications and Works what steps are the Government taking to improve the remaining 19 miles of the Accra-Kumasi Road pending the completion of the realignment now in progress?

MR. ATTA MENSAH: I assume that the Honourable Member refers to the stretch of 19 miles from Kumasi itself. Every effort is being made to open the new alignment to traffic before the next rainy season in order to avoid heavy expenditure on improving the existing road. In the circumstances it is not possible to justify any expenditure on the latter above the minimum necessary to keep the road open to traffic.

Bekwai Water Supply

352. NANA KWAME GYEBI ABABIO: When is the work on the Bekwai Water Supply going to be started and how long is it intended to take to complete it?

MR. ATTA MENSAH: It is hoped that work will start on the construction of the Bekwai Water Supply during the financial year 1953-54. It will take some 18 months to complete.

NANA GYEBI ABABIO: Can the Minister state the exact date on which the construction will start?

MR. ATTA MENSAH: The construction will be started in three months time.

Wells for Jankoba in the Atwima Mponua Area

367. MR. KUSI asked the Minister of Communications and Works whether he will consider making provision for the construction of better wells for Jankoba in the Atwima Mponua area as the drinking water there collects dirt from drains during rainfall and makes the water unsuitable for drinking?

MR. ATTA MENSAH: The Department of Rural Water Development is not working in the Jankoba area at present and as the department has heavy commitments in many parts of the country I am unable to say when it will commence operations there. The department will, however, be pleased to advise the people of Jankoba how to improve their water supply.

MR. KUSI: Will the Minister explain the reason why when there is shortage of water in the Municipal towns the Minister makes every necessary financial arrangement to get materials in order to provide the Municipal towns with water, but when there is shortage of water in the rural areas, the Minister tries to defend himself by saying that the needs of the rural areas are not sufficient and there are no materials to provide water for the rural areas?

MR. BRAIMAH: In the Municipal towns, we extend the services; it is not a new capital construction and the Honourable Member will agree that so many people have been going into the Municipal towns from the rural areas, and, if we neglect the Municipal areas the Honourable Member will be the first to complain when say in Accra he gets up and finds that there is no water in the tap at all.

MR. KUSI: Is the Minister then telling us that the policy of the Government as a whole is to develop the Municipal towns in order to attract people from the rural areas to the Municipal towns and then neglect the people of the rural areas?

MR. BRAIMAH: That is not the Government's policy at all. The Government are doing nothing at all to encourage people to come into the Municipal towns from the rural areas.

MR. ABUBEKR: Does not the statement of the Minister imply that the policy of the Government is to encourage a drift from the rural areas into the towns?

MR. BRAIMAH: It is not so, and with regard to water we have two separate departments; one to serve the Municipal towns and the other the rural areas; and each department is working according to an orderly programme.

MR. OFORI ATTA: Is the Minister aware that the opinion of the Economic Adviser of this Government is that you cannot expect a farmer in the bush to grow more food if you do not provide him with good water?

MR. BRAIMAH: Yes, Sir; and that is why we are going in for this drilling contract to speed up the work of the Department of Rural Water Development.

BUSINESS STATEMENT

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. KWAME NKURUMAH): Mr. Speaker, with your permission I would like to inform the House of the Business that has been arranged for the Seventh Week of this Meeting.

Monday 23rd March.

The nineteenth day of Committee of Supply.

Tuesday 24th March.

Honourable Members will recall that on the Second Day of Committee of Supply one and half hours were lost on other business. To compensate for this it is proposed that time should be allowed for debate on this, the last day of Committee of Supply, between 9.30 and 11 a.m. Thereafter the Question will be put on all Heads which have not been disposed of in accordance with the Standing Orders, and the Committee Stage of the Appropriation Bill completed. The Bill will then be read a Third time.

The First Reading of all Bills which will have been published for the required time.

Wednesday 25th March.

The Second Reading and Committee Stage of Bills which were read a first time on the previous day.

Thursday 26th March.

Government Motions to approve Orders made under the Statutory Powers and Duties (Transfer to Ministers) Ordinance, and a quintennial resolution to approve an annual grant-in-aid to the University College.

The completion of Bills outstanding from the previous day.

A Motion on the Adjournment.

Friday 27th March.

Private Members.

STATEMENT—HOUSING POLICY

MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING: (MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE): Mr. Speaker, I crave your leave to make a statement on the housing policy of the Government.

The Government has set itself two main aims in housing policy, the creation of more houses and the improvement of building standards. The time is considered opportune for a statement of the objectives of this policy and of the means proposed to carry them out. The present statement confines itself to policy objectives within the present phase of the Development Plan, namely, to the end of 1956; that date will be an appropriate one to take stock in the light, for example, of the effects that the construction of the Port and Town of Tema will have on the building industry and on

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the economy of the country as a whole. The Government is confident, that, given capital investment in residential building on the necessary scale, which it will be Government's policy to promote, there is good reason to hope for substantial progress in solving the most acute problems of housing shortage.

The Government inherited from its predecessor a substantial programme of housing estate construction both in Accra and other main towns. Except in Accra, where for the most part the estate houses are disposed of by sale to the victims of the Accra Earthquake and their dependents, the Government housing estates are designed for the lower paid worker and artisan group and the rents are subsidised. This programme of estate construction and management in the urban centres has been the main feature of the Government's social housing policy in the past. It has tended to create in some minds the impression that on the central Government alone falls the obligation to house the lower paid worker groups. Clearly this is a responsibility that must be shared increasingly in the future by Local Authorities and by the various sections of the community itself. It is emphasised that over the whole field of housing, direct assistance by Government in actual building and indirect assistance by the facilitation of credit and by other means, can only operate with success, if they are joined by Local Authority and private enterprise playing their appropriate parts. The objective of an ever increasing number of comfortable homes for the people will be pursued along the new lines of policy described in the following paragraphs:—

9.30 a.m.

(a) HOME OWNERSHIP

There will be a concentration on the provision of homes for ownership rather than houses for rent. The Government will itself effect the construction of houses for hire purchase in both urban and rural areas. Starting with existing projects for Fiankuma and other small village estates, a programme is envisaged of some 500 houses in urban and rural areas. Home ownership will be reinforced by the operation of the Housing Loans Scheme for which Government will introduce means to make substantial sums available to Housing Loans Boards in the present period.

(b) BALANCE BETWEEN RURAL AND URBAN PROGRAMMES

Government will ensure that housing in the rural areas is given its proper proportion in the housing programme. This will be guaranteed through the creation of a Rural Housing Advisory Committee, representing all the regions and advising the Minister. It will be carried into effect by the creation of a separate Rural Housing Department, responsible through its Director to the Minister.

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(c) REORGANISATION OF HOUSING DEPARTMENT AND HOUSING DIVISION OF THE MINISTRY.

Three separate divisions will be established as follows:—

1. Urban Housing Department.
2. Rural Housing Department.
3. Assisted Housing Division (of the Ministry).

The Urban Housing Department will carry out the construction, maintenance and management of Housing Estates in urban areas. The programme of subsidised housing planned, originally to be built over a ten-year period, will be accelerated to completion by March, 1956. Hire purchase housing construction in urban areas will be under the control of this department.

The Rural Housing Department will be responsible for projects already commenced or planned for the rural areas, but essentially it will be devoted to a programme of rural housing and village improvement carried out under rural housing teams and making use where possible of the agency of local African contractors. The Assisted Housing Division will have responsibility for all forms of housing assistance, including the Housing Loans Scheme, building societies, civil service assisted housing schemes and others in contemplation.

(d) CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY

To enable the views of the regions and their particular housing needs to be known to the Minister, Central Advisory Committees, one Urban and one Rural, will be established. These committees will advise on the apportionment of funds between different parts of the housing programme and on measures to carry policy into effect.

(e) GREATER USE OF LOCAL MATERIALS

Experimentation and the application of the results of experiments will be vigorously pursued, the Urban and Rural Housing Departments working in co-operation with the laboratory of the Town and Country Planning branch, now merged with the Ministry. It will be an objective of policy to develop and improve the flow of building materials to areas of housing shortage.

(f) GREATER USE OF AFRICAN INITIATIVE

It is implicit in the new organisation of both the Rural and Urban Housing Departments that ever wider scope will exist, both in direction and in execution, for qualified Africans, whether engineers, architects, town planners or builders. Greater reliance will be placed on African Contractors, who will be given appropriate assistance as far as proves possible.

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(g) APPORTIONMENT BETWEEN DIFFERENT SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY

In the same manner that urban and rural policy is kept in balance, so Government's policy now seeks to give a fair proportion to different sections of the community, from the poorest classes in its subsidised estates as well as the slum dweller in its long-term rehousing programme, up to those of modest means, through housing loans, hire purchase and, ultimately, building societies.

Pilot slum clearance schemes will be instituted initially at Accra and Kumasi. Sekondi-Takoradi, Cape Coast and possibly one other town in the mining areas will be added to the programme for slum clearance and rehousing.

(h) FINANCE

The implementation of the foregoing policy involves in terms of finance an expansion of expenditure of the order of £3½ millions in the period of 1956 and an alteration in certain allocations between sub-heads of the Development Estimates. The total expenditure in the Housing and Town and Country Planning Development Plans remains unaltered. The greater part of the programme is loan expenditure, which will ultimately be reimbursed, for example through hire purchase or housing loans schemes, to Government. The Government is not committed by the future policy to any increase in subsidisation, beyond that contained in the existing plan.

CONCLUSION

The fundamentals of the new policy are its concentration on home-ownership, its expansion, particularly in the rural areas, the reorganisation of Ministry and departmental staff, the creation of consultative bodies, greater use of local materials and wider opportunities for Africans, including African building contractors.

The House at this time resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

HOUSE IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING

Housing Department

MR. E. O. ASAFU-ADJAYE: Mr. Chairman, I beg to move:

- (i) "That the sum of £161,050 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Housing Department shall stand part of the Schedule".
- (ii) "That the sum of £160,000 provided in the Third Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Housing Department shall stand part of the Schedule".
- (iii) "That the sum of £535,000 provided in the Fourth Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Housing Department shall stand part of the Schedule".

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Honourable Members, I have made a statement a few minutes ago describing the Housing Policy which I propose to follow during the remainder of the Development Plan period. I do not propose therefore to cover the whole of that ground again. What I shall try to do is to describe the existing housing programme in relation to the Estimates so that you may obtain a clearer picture of the work that is actually being done.

Complaints are often made for lack of information about housing and it has been suggested that the Government Housing Programme is at a standstill. This is by no means the case but I agree that not enough publicity has in the past been given to this programme. There are three main objectives in our housing programme.

Briefly, they are, first, to continue and complete the subsidised housing schemes in the Development Plan in order to provide accommodation at reasonable rentals for those people on low incomes who cannot afford to pay the rents prevailing in the main commercial and industrial centres. The second objective, and in my opinion the most important, is to assist people to purchase their own houses either through Government-sponsored hire purchase schemes or by means of financial assistance through the Housing Loans Board or other agencies. The third objective is the improvement of rural areas and the main towns through schemes for rural housing and slum clearance.

Honourable Members may well ask why the Estimates for the service of Housing have been severely cut if the Government really believe that the housing programme is as important as they say it is. The allocation for housing in the Development Estimates is, indeed, more than a million pounds less than it was for the present financial year. It amounts to £695,000 only, as against £1,788,041 in 1952-53. The explanation for this arises partly from the fact that when it was decided that the greater part of the ten-year development programme should be completed in five years, two things were necessary: estimated expenditure for each year had to be greatly increased, and additional staff had to be obtained. It turned out, as you might imagine, that the money was immediately available but the men were not, so that much of the work planned for this present financial year could not be carried out until the extra staff arrived. I am happy to say that staff recruiting has been successful and there are now only three vacancies in the department's establishment of 22 key posts of Executive Engineer and Inspector of Works. But it was well into 1952 before these posts were filled, and then at the end of the year, when everything seemed well set for rapid developments, misfortune befell the department. In December the Assistant Director of Housing was taken ill and had to be sent to the United Kingdom for treatment, only to be followed within a few weeks by the Director himself, who was seriously injured in a motor accident near Tarkwa when carrying

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out a tour of inspection. For these reasons, among others, the actual expenditure on Housing in the Development Estimates during this year is likely to be a little more than a million pounds, and a sum of about £770,000 will be available for revoting for expenditure in 1953-54. This sum, when added to the total in the Estimates, will provide about £1,465,000 for expenditure on housing, and this will provide an adequate programme of work for the year. It was partly in the light of this situation that the reduction was made in the Housing Estimates for 1953-54, since the development programme as a whole must proceed as rapidly as possible, and progress in other fields would be impeded if money was allocated for housing beyond the limit of what we could expect to spend. But if work proceeds so rapidly that a particular vote is exhausted before the end of the financial year, I shall have no hesitation in applying for further funds within the framework of the Development Plan, if the circumstances, in my opinion, warrant it.

The first of the three objectives to which I have referred is the completion of the subsidised housing programme. Before the Development Plan started on the 1st April, 1951, there were seven subsidised housing estates administered by the Housing Department, although only two of them had been completed. Four of these were in the Colony, namely, the Sabon Zongo estate in Accra, the Siwudu estate in Cape Coast, the Adiembra estate in Sekondi, and the Effiakuma estate in Takoradi. Three were in Ashanti, two of which, Asawasi and Suntresu North, were in Kumasi, and the other was at Obuasi. Between them they contained 4,883 rooms in houses or in groups of single quarters. The Development Plan provides for five new estates, in addition to the completion of those which were still under construction when the plan started. The new estates are planned for Abosso, Bibiani and Tarkwa in the Colony, and for Lake Road and Suntresu South in Kumasi. In addition, the Railway housing estate at North Effiakuma is to be taken over by the Housing Department as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made. After allowing for the wage increases in April, 1952, which led to a rise in costs and to a reduction in the planned number of rooms, the number of rooms to be built in the development programme is now 8,642, bringing the total number of rooms when these estates are completed on the 31st March, 1956, to 15,509. This total includes 1,984 rooms to be taken over on the Railway housing estate at Takoradi. During the first 21 months of the plan period, 2,280 rooms were built, leaving 5,362 to come, many of which are now under construction. In relation to the shorter period of the revised Development Plan, this programme is behind schedule, but I have explained that the additional staff needed could not be obtained immediately, and some time had to elapse before men were engaged and were effectively fitted into the departmental organisation. The targets are, furthermore, somewhat misleading, since it takes several months

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to prepare building sites for large estates of this kind. During this period of preparation, no houses can be built, but afterwards house building proceeds rapidly. This is the position on two large estates at Suntresu South, Kumasi, and at Tarkwa, where sites are now ready and the construction of houses is in progress. In addition, the clearance of the site at Bibiani will shortly be finished. Consequently, the figures of rooms completed should soon show a great improvement. I intend, in future, to publish information regularly on the rate of progress on these, and all other, estates.

9.45 a.m.

I come now to the second objective, which is to assist as many people as possible, over as wide an area as possible, to own their own homes. The principal means of doing this are by providing houses for purchase by the public on equitable terms on the one hand, and, on the other, by making capital available at moderate rates of interest, and with reasonable periods in which to make repayment, so that people who wish to do so will find it easier to build their own houses. I will describe briefly what has been done in this direction.

The Accra Rehousing Scheme was the first hire-purchase scheme to be introduced in this country. It was started after the earthquake of 1939 and was intended to provide houses for those whose homes had been destroyed or rendered uninhabitable by the disaster. Because of the need for speed when these houses were built, most of them were at first temporary structures. It was, indeed, not until 1948, when the war was over and supplies of building materials were once more becoming available, that the conversion of these temporary houses on a large scale really started. The programme is designed to replace all the temporary houses by permanent buildings. Before the Development Plan started, 754 permanent houses and 912 permanent rooms in compounds had been built, containing, altogether, 3,616 rooms. In the Development Plan, an additional 740 permanent houses are to be built, containing 2,961 rooms. During the first 21 months of the plan period, that is up to the end of 1952, 909 of these rooms had been completed, leaving 2,052 to come. While progress is up to schedule, I intend to accelerate this programme during the coming year by doubling the labour force, so as to finish it within the next two years, instead of the next three as planned at present. I hope then to release staff engaged on this work for housing projects in other towns and in rural areas.

You will have seen a new sub-head in the Development Estimates entitled "Housing Schemes on Hire Purchase". The plan provision is at present only £50,000 but this will be increased later.

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The financial provision is to enable small hire-purchase housing estates to be started in other parts of the country, and I have already commenced such a scheme at Fiankuma, a small community in the heart of Ashanti forests. Expenditure was only approved last month, which is the reason for its absence from the Estimates. The main problem with hire-purchase housing is that the purchase price of the houses, which must reflect their real cost, must be within the means of the people for whom they are designed, since there can, in my opinion, be no subsidisation in schemes of this kind. The houses at Fiankuma are to be built in sandcrete blocks by local contract, and the success or failure of this project may well determine the future of this type of scheme in the rural areas. I intend, in the near future, to start a second small experimental scheme of this kind at Jacobu, which is also in Ashanti.

I come now to two other groups of houses which are to be disposed of in most, if not all, cases on hire-purchase terms, and which, I know, have aroused a great deal of controversy. I refer to the Dutch and Swedish experimental housing schemes. I will not say much about them now, because I know that certain Honourable Members have been waiting, with patience and forbearance, for the opportunity to attack me on this score! And I do not wish to deprive them of their opportunity by answering their criticisms in advance! But I do want to emphasise as clearly as I can what these schemes are intended to do, so that those who will shortly criticise them will have no excuse for attacking them for doing or failing to do something which was never intended. These schemes are experiments. What are they supposed to find out for us? Briefly, the answer is this. What I am trying to do is to find out how cheaply and how quickly a moderately sized and well built house of three or four rooms can be built in this country at the present time. We need many more houses and we need houses of solid, but certainly not luxurious, construction. And we need them quickly. Would prefabrication solve our problems, completely or partially? It has succeeded in other countries, particularly during the emergency of the last war. Will it be successful here? Furthermore, we wish to know how far local materials can replace imported elements in house construction. At present we have no cement but we have timber. Can local timber compete with imported cement? The only way to find the answers to such questions is, in my opinion, by practical tests, and this is why the Dutch and Swedish housing schemes were introduced. What have we learnt so far? As you now know from the answers to certain questions which I gave last week, the cost of building the Dutch houses has been very high, and the speed of erection has not been as rapid as we hoped. These answers are not yet conclusive. The design of the houses which are still to be built has now been modified and the estimated costs correspondingly reduced. The experiments will continue and we shall have more to learn.

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Up to date, 64 Dutch houses have been built, containing 211 living rooms, and I hope that the Allocation Committees which I am setting up in Accra, Kumasi and Sekondi-Takoradi will have advised me on their allocation in time for them to be occupied by the end of April or early in May. There are 104 modified Dutch houses still to be built, each containing 2 or 3 rooms with the usual domestic offices, and construction is to start in the immediate future in Accra, Cape Coast, Sekondi-Takoradi and, possibly, Kumasi. 53 Swedish timber houses, containing 156 living rooms, are under construction, and 9 more of these houses, containing 36 single quarters are shortly to be started in Keta.

It is, I feel, sometimes imagined that the money spent on the Dutch and Swedish houses must be regarded as a total loss. This is far from being the case, since the houses are to be sold. Admittedly, the houses have cost more than they would have done if they had been built as part of a large-scale commercially run project; but as I have explained, they are an experiment; they have been built in small numbers in several towns and this has been uneconomic.

I wish to see the benefits of home-ownership extended over as wide a field as possible, and in particular in the smaller towns and villages in the rural areas. In many of these places it would be uneconomical for small housing estates to be built, nor would there be a sufficient demand for them. But there may be people in these towns who wish to build their own houses, through the agency of local builders, but who lack the necessary capital to do so since they cannot afford the high interest rates which are sometimes charged. The Housing Loans Scheme is designed to help such people by making available limited advances up to £1,600 at moderate rates of interest. I had intended to start this scheme in January, but to my regret it did not prove possible to complete all the arrangements in time. However, ten Housing Loans Boards have now been established, three in the Colony, at Accra, Cape Coast and Sekondi-Takoradi, four in Ashanti, at Kumasi, and in the District Council areas of Adansi/Banka, Amansie and Wenchi, and three in the Northern Territories, in the Tamale urban area, in the Wala District Council area, and in the Lawra Confederacy Council area. I hope that the first loans under this scheme may shortly be made.

I come, finally, to the third objective, that is the improvement of the countryside and the towns through rural housing and slum clearance schemes. I will not say much on this subject, partly because the schemes are covered in the statement of policy I have made, but mainly because little practical work, as opposed to planning, has yet been done. The provision for rural housing in the Department Plan is £300,000 of which £75,000 was for expenditure in 1952-53. £500,000 is authorised in the Plan for Slum Clearance,

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and of this £100,000 was for expenditure in 1952–53. None of this money has yet been spent, so that it will be available for revoting in the coming financial year. A survey of slum areas in Ussher-town has been completed, and a pilot scheme to investigate the social and economic problems of rehousing some of the people living in this area and of developing a commercial site will, I hope, be started in the near future. In addition, I am arranging for a survey of slum areas in Cape Coast to be started, if possible, in the middle of the year.

The rural housing programme is still under examination in my Ministry ; we are not yet ready with a detailed plan, and it may well be that a number of different schemes will be tried, perhaps one in each region of the country, designed to meet particular local needs which vary greatly, as you know, from one region to another. In my policy statement, I shall explain how it is intended to set up a rural housing division, under its own Director, to deal exclusively with housing schemes in the rural areas. I envisage that the post of Director will be held by an African if, as I have every hope will be the case, a suitably qualified candidate is available. For the formulation of policy on rural housing, I shall rely largely on the advice of a Rural Housing Advisory Committee which I intend to set up in the near future.

My survey of the housing programme will be incomplete if I make no reference to the important field of rent control. There are now 33 Rent Assessment Committees, of which 19 are in the Colony, 12 in Ashanti and two in Trans-Volta Togoland. The executive work is undertaken largely by the twelve Rent Control Officers who are stationed in Accra, Cape Coast, Sekondi-Takoradi, Tarkwa, Koforidua, Kpandu, Kumasi and Sunyani. Rent Control is an extremely difficult system to operate successfully, and it is inevitable that misunderstandings and difficulties should have arisen in its initial stages. I will only say here—as I have already explained at meetings which I have held recently with representatives of the Kumasi Landlords' and Tenants' Associations—that I will continue to pay the closest attention to this question, and will do all I can to ensure that the interests of tenants and landlords are respected and safeguarded with equal care. Given a spirit of goodwill and mutual understanding, there is no reason why the difficulties in working this system, great as they undoubtedly are, should not eventually be overcome, to the lasting benefit of the whole community.

10 a.m.

In conclusion, I would mention the proposal I have made in my statement on housing policy to set up an Urban and a Rural Advisory Committee on Housing. I place great hopes on the establishment of these Committees, both as a means of keeping me in

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touch with public opinion on housing problems throughout the country, and as a channel through which I can convey to the people a clearer understanding of what we are achieving, and of the very great obstacles which stand in the way of a truly effective national housing policy. The social, financial and economic problems are hard facts which can be faced and overcome only by firm and practical measures. I have tried in this speech to show you some of the practical steps in the way of house building and financial assistance which I am taking or am about to introduce. For the future, I can promise you action—it will be limited to certain attainable objectives, but when we have reached them, we will go on from there to fresh fields. We cannot change the housing conditions of our country overnight, nor is this a task for the Government alone. It is one in which Local Authorities, the big commercial and industrial employers, and, indeed, every individual citizen, all have their parts to play, and I call upon all to take their full share in this great enterprise.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move.

Motion made, and question proposed.

MR. A. AFOKO: Mr. Chairman, I am afraid I must not look at my Minister's face and fail to speak the truth. According to the Minister's speech there is no provision whatever made by the Minister to have houses built in the Northern Territories for the housing of the men in the North.

According to a question he answered in this House some time ago, he stated that building Schokbeton houses in Tamale or any other part of the North would mean extra expenditure. That is quite true, but what about Taylor Woodrow? Would it mean that if the Minister asks Taylor Woodrow to go and build houses for the people in Tamale, most of whom are not housed, it will mean extra expenditure? You cannot tell me that if you want to send Schokbeton to Tamale to build houses it will cost the Government. What about bringing Schokbeton far away from Holland to come over to the Gold Coast? What do you think of the cost of that, getting somebody from Holland to come to Accra to build houses, and the cost of getting that same person to go to Tamale to build houses? It is your intention to keep us backward—

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: They are only sample houses!

MR. AFOKO: This Government are a very wise Government because they feel that the backward areas should be the last to be developed.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Why?

MR. AFOKO: With reference to page 129 of the Development Estimates, Sub-head 3, Subsidised Schemes of £355,000 not a single pound is going to be spent in the North. In the Colony

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West you have Bibiani, Cape Coast, Sekondi-Takoradi, Tarkwa and Abosso; Colony East you have Accra; Ashanti you have Kumasi, Obuasi. Not a single pound is to be spent in the North. Shame! The North is more advanced than the South. This attempt to make us labourers all the time is something that is bad and we are no longer prepared to allow people to cheat us indirectly. We are quite wide awake now, we are no more children. We are 19 in this House and the 19 will never sit down to see that the North is cheated in such a way.

I refer to the same page Sub-head 5: Housing Loans Scheme, Item 302, Northern Territories: I do not know how Government are going to spend this £18,000 in the North. This amount is just there to deceive us that you are doing something for us. I would like the Minister to explain how this £18,000 is going to be spent in the Northern Territories. I now come to Estate Houses. There are no estate houses in the North whatever. We have so many estate houses in Ashanti and in the Colony. Most of the workmen are from the North and if you go round these estate houses you will never see even one single Northern Territories man occupying one. It is a shame to the Government. You will never see even one Northern Territories man occupying an estate house. Who will give it to him? If a Northern Territories man applies and a Colony or Ashanti man applies (*interruption*)—in Accra especially there is discrimination. I must tell the Government that there is still discrimination, even worse discrimination than before. This question of housing policy together with other questions is most unsatisfactory to me in particular and to my Honourable Friends from the North, and we are no more prepared to see such things go on between the three regions of the Gold Coast. We are of one country, we form one country and we must have equal rights; we must share the rights with the people in the Colony—

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Equal duties!

MR. AFOKO: Equal duties? We do more than you do. If you go to Nima you will find about eight Northern Territories men in one small room. If you go to Agbogbloshie, you will find about six Northern Territories men in one small room and if you go to Korle Gonno you will find about seven Northern Territories men in one small zinc room. Go to any of these estates in Accra—Osu Estates and other places—and you will find the Colony people with their wives very happy, with fine hedges and all the rest. (*Interruption*). We are not ready to have that? If you cannot build some for us in the North, get places here for our people who are living here. You cannot refuse to give us houses in the North and then refuse to give us houses here too. Well, if Government are not aware that the Northern Territories man is wide awake, I tell them now that we are now wide awake.

[MR. AFOKO]

This particular Government are composed mainly of men from the Colony and Ashanti—

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Northern Territories too.

MR. AFOKO: We have only one Minister from the Northern Territories and one from Ashanti and all the rest from the Colony.

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: Only one from Ashanti?

MR. AFOKO: That Minister might have stood for election in Ashanti, but really he is not from Ashanti. I am bringing facts.

We have been very fortunate, I mean the Northern Territories men have been fortunate, to have 19 of their fellow Northern Territories men to represent them in this House to-day and it is for the 19 men to fight for the rights of the Northern Territories.

When it comes to the question of Constitutional Changes in this country, we the people from the North, according to what this Government are now showing us, will show to them that we are wide awake and we are not going to have anything without first of all having some safeguards. We must have some safeguards in any new Constitution that will come. That does not mean to say that we do not want self-government. We want self-government, but we must have some safeguards in that particular Constitution that will come so that we can talk for our people.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Better rights!

10.15 a.m.

MR. AFOKO: Yes, I know we have, that is why I am talking. Mr. Chairman, I just want to remind the Government, especially the Minister of Housing that the policy is a very bad one. When he talks of the Northern Territories, he talks of special people. Are we special people?

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: No! No!

MR. AFOKO: We have the same fast dark colour as you have, and we do not turn into dirty green when we die. We just have the same dark colour and we do not want you to say that you want special things for the Northern Territories. What is good for you is good for us.

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: On a point of order. I think my Honourable Friend has misunderstood me. When I used the term "special" I was using it in the sense that special consideration will be given to the peoples of the North, because hitherto they have not received special attention. (Hear! Hear! Hear!).

MR. AFOKO: This is the first time you have used the word special. When you were answering questions on the Schokbeton houses you said that to build Schokbeton houses in Tamale would cost extra amount and that you were trying to get a special type of houses that will suit—

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: A round house.

MR. AFOKO: Your round house. You will one day come to live in the North; you are all right. I am not in for money, of course. The fact that you said special type of houses that will suit the Northern Territories is what I am against; I am not against the fact that you said special consideration. I am against the statement that you will have special houses built for the North. What is good for you is good for us and I wish to tell you.

MR. AWUMA: I do not intend to attack the Ministry in any spirit of bitterness; but I must confess that I have never before felt so much disappointed in this House as I do to-day. The Housing Scheme as outlined by the Minister sounds very ambitious indeed, and I believe that, if finally it is fully implemented, it will be of great benefit to the country. The Minister in his speech made reference to experiments which are being carried out in several places. He mentioned all the Municipal towns, and one might think that he was limiting this experiment to these big places only. But he switched over happily to make reference to some two or three villages in Ashanti. If he had extended that to some other areas also I would not have felt disappointed as I do now. Talking about the Trans-Volta/Togoland Region, Keta is the only place that he mentioned. But even what he said about Keta cannot be taken as very gratifying. I wonder whether the Housing Department has tried to make any survey of the Trans-Volta/Togoland Region. If he talks about slum areas in Accra, Kumasi, Sekondi and other places, well, I stand to suggest strongly to the Minister that slum areas do exist in the Trans-Volta/Togoland Region also, particularly in Keta and Ho. Keta is an old town which is being reduced considerably by erosion; but still there are hundreds of people living there and they suffer very much from housing shortage. Very recently Ho has been made the Regional Headquarters of that whole area. Everybody knows the poverty of that particular small town of Ho. It is not a cocoa growing area; it is a place in the grassland area and the people plant only cassava; they have not got much money to build houses. With the employees of Government and other employers pouring into Ho their housing shortage has become very very acute indeed. There are several high African Civil Servants transferred to Ho who have not got any decent houses up till now to live in and so they are compelled to stoop down to the same poor living conditions as we who are fated to that perpetual poverty in that area. We heard that ten Schokbeton houses were once allocated to Keta and ten to Ho. We also heard of 8 Swedish houses for Keta and 8 for Ho. This has remained only a paper transaction until now and if nothing in particular is done in this Trans-Volta area, then I think that the work of this Ministry as far as housing is concerned will be a failure in that area. We do not believe that we are being unduly discriminated against; I take it that the Ministry has forgotten that

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we exist. If this is the case, then I strongly appeal that a Survey Team be sent to that area quickly in order that we also may enjoy the same rights and privileges that our more fortunate friends are expected to enjoy in other places. Perhaps my final talk may not be the responsibility of the Ministry of Housing. If it is the Ministry of Housing or Housing Department, then I think that the Africans who work in that department must be the first to get houses to live in. I know an African in the Housing Department working in Accra town and he is compelled to go far to the suburbs of Accra to find an isolated house. When he is out to do his work in the town, his wife and little children are left alone in the house. On more than two occasions daylight stealing has occurred in his house. Well, it sounds ridiculous that a member of the Housing Department or Ministry should not get a house to live in in Accra.

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: The people first !

MR. AWUMA: I know the people first, of course, but if they are the people who take care of the housing problem I think they also have the right to live in the house. (Hear ! Hear ! Hear !).

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: This is supposed to be my schedule, but I think I would not speak very much. My Honourable Friend, the Second Rural Member for Akim Abuakwa, will deal with the economics of housing in this country later on.

MR. OFORI ATTA: Is that true ? (Laughter).

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: I used to think that if Government had failed, it had failed in its educational policy; but when the Minister of Education and Social Welfare presented us with his policy and told us what had happened during the previous year, I had some hope. At least I felt that he had done something except that I am still not satisfied with the primary part of education in this country. But I feel that if this Government have failed and have failed hopelessly, it is in their housing policy.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Dr. Ansah Koi !

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: I am not interested whether it is the old Minister or the present Minister. I am looking straight into the fact and I see that the Government have failed hopelessly in providing houses for the people of this country.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: The old Minister !

DR. ANSAH KOI (rose)—

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Sit down ! Sit down !
Order ! Order !

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: A year or two ago we were given very high hopes. We were told, not in this House but outside, that a Building Company called Schokbeton was coming into this country and that it would be able to provide for this country houses at the rate of 12,000 a year. The matter was brought before the Standing Finance Committee and we were asked to vote money for experiment. As much as £200,000 was voted for 134 houses. Up till now, although the contract was supposed to have been finished by August last year, not more than 64 houses have been built. When we were told at first, I said I had my doubts. But I waited until the houses began to pour in. I went to the place and I felt that they were strong houses; but at the same time, I said I was not sure that they were going to produce the houses at the rate we had been told. Not only that, I said that they were going to be too expensive because I made investigation and found right from the very beginning that it would cost £150 or £200 to bring one house into this country. That sum of money could be used to provide houses—if you say the Northern Territories kind of houses are special houses—at least a special house for a Northern Territories man. That £200 was used in bringing only one house into this country. I said if that policy was pursued, what was going to happen was that our contractors were going to lose jobs; our masons were not going to get jobs, and I suggested to the Government that it would be better to use local materials wherever possible. It was doubted. They said the houses were going to be very cheap; in fact, some of us were told that each house was going to cost £750. I made investigation and I found that a detached house was going to cost between £2,000 and £2,500. To-day what are the facts? The Ministry itself has come out with the figure. The cheapest house of three rooms costs £2,175; some of them cost £4,233 for four rooms and £6,621 for six rooms; they are not storey buildings.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: No!

ANOTHER HONOURABLE MEMBER: They are!

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: You may say so—six rooms, three up, three down (*laughter*).

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: No boys' rooms!

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: Six rooms for £6,621! You may say that there are amenities, but I must say that I have examined these materials and not only are they prefabricated but they are definitely sub-standard. But the Minister says they were just experimental. All right, we take it that they are just experimental, but already we have voted another £41,000 for what? For what? For experiment. But you have experiment in order to have a conclusion. When are we going to have the conclusion of these

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experiments? It is taking too long. Is it a natural experiment or a prefabricated experiment? (*Laughter*). I feel that this Schokbeton scheme must be dropped.

10.30 a.m.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Shame, shame. No, no, no. We want houses.

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: We want houses but we want houses for the people and "houses for the people" means houses which the people can afford to live in; but can they?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Yes.

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: You may, but the people cannot. I went to Kaneshie the other day and found, I think it was on 22nd December, 1952, that the houses were dirty and many of them were cracking although nobody has gone to live in those houses, yet we think the earthquake houses in Osu are very lovely things; nobody can dispute that. They are definitely better, compared with those Schokbeton houses.

If the Government want to waste money they must realise that it does not belong to them. It belongs to the people and must be used usefully. I am happy however that the Minister says he is now turning his attention to the use of bricks and tiles. Last year I mentioned that there was a great necessity for using local materials and using bricks and tiles in this country, because even in Britain, a very highly advanced country, they use bricks and tiles except in building very big and mighty Government houses. Even in those big and mighty houses they sometimes use bricks and tiles. If you want reinforced houses, you can have them even with bricks and tiles. What encouragement are Government giving? I understand there is a Syrian in this country who is making bricks and tiles and no encouragement at all is given to him.

I now come to ask the Government whether they are going in for flats or for individual homes? Single homes, he says, but I feel that there is need for the introduction of flats into this country now though there is this difficulty of how the people will pound their fufu. If so, find a solution for it or else it is up to the Housing Department, if they are a department for providing houses and giving houses in this country, to find out how they can solve that problem. They also seem to be a department of experiments without conclusion.

I am also happy to hear that the Minister says he is going to encourage private enterprise. That is very important. In Britain the housing policy has not been very much accelerated because the Government I think—it was the Labour Government—tended to build Council houses at the expense of private enterprise and

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because of that the scheme was slowed down. I think the Government are wise to adopt both policies, that is, Government buildings and private buildings. But when we come to Government buildings I find that the policy of the Government is not very clear. We do not know exactly who is responsible for Government buildings in this country, whether it is the Public Works Department or the Housing Department. I even sometimes think that the Housing Department cannot build at all and the Public Works Department is doing the work, but in this connection also there is such a hopeless estimation that generally, in the middle of the work tools have to be laid down; and who bears the blame? We may go to blame the Minister of Labour, but you cannot blame him; it is the Public Works Department or the Minister of Communications and Works. I feel that we have to blame also the Ministry of Housing because if they were sensible enough to know exactly what ought to have been done, it would not have happened. They would not have gone right in the middle of the bridge to find that the bridge is gone down and all the labourers have got to lay down their tools without having any work to do.

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: The Housing Department does not build bridges.

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: This is a metaphor. They just go into it, blind alley, and they just push their noses and eyes against the walls. They do not know where they are going; they cannot see at all. I feel that the Housing Department before they attempt to do these things should find out the limiting factors and eliminate them wherever possible, whether they are due to funds, materials, labour or otherwise. The Housing Department seems to be a washout. The Ministry may be all right but ultimately the responsibility lies with the Minister and therefore we cannot help but blame the Minister.

The Minister talks of slum clearance. We have heard this thing too often. Last year the Minister told us, with your permission, Sir, I will read from last year's records:

“The Minister said that the question of housing for rural areas was in hand. Slums were worse in the crowded municipalities and the mining centres than in the rural areas; and the policy was to provide for their clearance first in those places where the need to do so was greater”.

What has been done? Nothing!

I now come to the question of contracts. Many people are concerned with what is happening. They feel that Africans are not getting contracts and even where Africans get contracts they are not sure whether there has not been a “deal”. They think that fishy things are going on in the issuing of contracts. I would draw the attention of the Minister to go into that. We expect

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integrity but we do not expect integrity for itself; we expect it because of justice so that everybody may have justice. If a man is worthy of doing a thing, give it to him instead of giving contracts through the backdoor.

Mr. Chairman, an Honourable Member has talked about housing in the Northern Territories. I feel that the time has come when the Ministry should sit down and find out exactly what should be done for the Northern Territories.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear, hear.

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: Because it seems to me that when you go to the North you find the compounds scattered all over the place. The time has come when they should be encouraged to come together and to live in better types of houses. The houses being used now are in many cases unhygienic and they tend to cause meningitis—the type of houses they are using. It is up to the Housing Department to go into it and find the type of house which will not produce this type of disease.

Finally, I would suggest to the Minister seriously that once again I think it is very necessary to use local materials instead of over-emphasising the use of cement even though we may have cement here later on, because after all the Volta River Project may be started very soon according to the Government and if they start it it would mean that there may be a great need for cement for making the dam. That means there will be a great shortage of cement for the ordinary people. This is the time and, of course, the department ought to have known long ago, to experiment and to give us the result. But we should use local materials because if we use local materials we have the following advantages:—

We have our own men getting jobs to do;

Transport costs will not be very heavy;

The meagre transport we have now will be allowed to be used for carrying food and cost of living will not rise.

Those houses will be less expensive and being less expensive, people with meagre means will be able to live at least in hygienic places.

Therefore I suggest it very seriously to the Minister.

I turn now, Mr. Minister, to your Rent Control Ordinance. There was no Ordinance ever so bogus because it is such a hopeless, hopeless Ordinance (*laughter*). The house-owners do not know where they stand; the tenants do not know where they stand and there is litigation all the time and what is worse. You can only solve the problem by going to the Courts which involves people in unnecessary debts. The other day I had to take somebody to the Court because he could not pay his rent and it could have been

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easily settled as in the old days. What is the Minister doing about it? He may say that his predecessor brought this bogus and hopeless Ordinance. What is he doing about it? I hope he will promise us here that he is going to amend this Ordinance.

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: There will be an amendment in due course.

10.45 a.m.

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: But going back to slum clearance—I will draw the attention of the Minister to the fact that Sekondi needs clearance, and if possible he must arrange with the University College to send their people down. I suggested this in one of the Ministries some time ago that where problems are difficult they could draw the attention of the University students to help during the holidays. Even they could help in fighting the cost of living out. But nothing was done. I am very happy that in Accra, something was done later on but I hope he will ask the University students to go to Sekondi because my people want clearance.

Now finally, Mr. Chairman, there is something which is happening in Sekondi-Takoradi, and I hope may happen in Accra and Kumasi later on, because of the new Municipal Ordinance we have passed. We say that the people cannot get houses to live in; we say that in some cases seven or eight people are living in one room and yet no sooner were arrangements made for some suburban areas to be attached to these municipalities than the Municipal Authorities went to these areas and demolished houses, in some cases, very good houses built of swish; the authorities said they should be demolished because they were not made of cement blocks or because they were not of their specifications. I feel until such time—*(interruption)*.

Yes, without permit. But in those days those people did not know that they had to get permit. If they knew, it would have been otherwise; it would have been going directly against the law but they did not know. And yet these houses have been broken down. You know that the people of Tanokrom are poor villagers, and you know that the cost of living is going up and up. I suggest seriously that they should be subsidized to put up buildings, if you are not going to compensate the people. One of them wrote to me, and with your permission, Mr. Chairman, I will read just a part:

“Conclusively, there had been some of the people who borrowed money before they could put up the erection. These people presently impecunious to make any building and in this respect, we are strongly appealing directly that every possible assistance in your deliberations could make us released from this trouble. That the most contemptible view of the action

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of the Sanitary Inspectors: that they could come or enter into the houses of the people whilst they are away to farm and break down their houses.

We humbly pray that the Honourable Members may render to us every possible help in order that, we may maintain our houses ”.

It is pathetic.

As I said, I have just skimmed the whole thing, and the Honourable the Second Rural Member for Akim Abuakwa will deal with the economic survey.

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: I have to correct an impression that has been created by the Opposition Whip that the Schokbeton houses have been a failure.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: A complete failure!

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: A complete failure? In my personal view it has not been a failure at all.

MR. KUSI: You are interested!

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: The Schokbeton firm is a firm of high reputation. At present as I am speaking they have got a contract with the French Government for £30,000,000; they have got another contract in the Middle East for £25,000,000 and also they have got a contract with the American Government for £15,000,000. Such a reputable firm! I want to outline the facts which have delayed the progress of this firm.

When this firm arrived in this country it was their view that to build here at once was going to be costly and therefore they had in view that they wanted to erect factories first. Nevertheless it was decided by the Director of Housing and his Permanent Secretary that before these people could be allowed to come here they must build sample houses of 134 houses for them to judge the durability of the houses and the speed with which they are built. These people agreed and instead of the Director of Housing and his associates allowing these people to build, giving them a site near Accra or Sekondi-Takoradi, they allocated sites 150 miles away or 100 miles away from Takoradi—the sites they allocated to them. When these people were bringing their building elements from Holland they first landed at Takoradi. If they had not wanted these houses to cost they would not have allocated them sites at 150 miles or 100 miles away from Takoradi for them to assemble these sample houses or even in Accra, but they made things more difficult for them. At that time it was the bogus arrangement of the former Minister (*uproar*) and instead of giving them sites at Takoradi, they gave them sites at Ho, Keta and Bibiani which were hundreds of miles away from Takoradi. Do you not think that these houses will cost more?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: It is your Government!

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: And even when these sample houses arrived at Takoradi, instead of the Director of Housing having the sagacity and wisdom to send a representative straight-away to go and check these elements there or order them to be sent to Kumasi where the Director of Housing could go to check them, he allowed these things to remain in Takoradi for about two or three months before he sent somebody to go and check—(interruption). That is why I said the present Minister has done something, for since the present Minister took over, there has been a great change—(interruption).

DR. ANSAH KOI: On a point of order. If I may be given the chance, I shall refute those remarks.

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: I will never say a thing that is not true. Even in Kumasi it was after five months before members of Schokbeton firm were able to get a site plan and a plot of land. They appealed to our former Minister of Housing about it, and when we approached a Member of the Town Planning Board—the Officer-in-Charge of the Asantehene Lands Office—he told me, "I am not under the control of the Minister of Housing".

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: It is true!

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: And I told him that the Otumfuo the Asantehene who has the country at heart had promised the Schokbeton people that even if the Government were not prepared to give them a site he was prepared to give them a site; the whole land was for him.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: What did he do?

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: He didn't do a damn thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Withdraw.

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: I withdraw Sir, with your permission. These people are a firm of high reputation. The Opposition Whip said that these houses are cracking; is he sincere to himself when he says that these houses are cracking? Is he sincere even to say that the house in which he is living is better than the Schokbeton ones built in Accra or Takoradi? Even I want Honourable Members to be sincere and compare the Schokbeton houses to the "New Era" houses built by Taylor Woodrow in which some Honourable Members are interested. Go and see the "New Era House" at Osu built by Taylor Woodrow; it is not good for even horses to live in; it is an insult to this Government. If you want Taylor Woodrow to give us better houses, then they must design better houses that will suit the people of this country, because we are advancing towards self-government and they cannot give us such stables. No decent person or even the labourer will take

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them even if you give them these houses for 7s. I am telling you, even horses will not stay in them, and yet you want to compare these houses to those of Schokbeton. My Honourable Friends who visited Holland with me will bear me out in this. When you go to Rotterdam, the best houses built there were built by Schokbeton: the Police Stations, the Schools, the State Departments, the Hospitals—all these were built by Schokbeton. Yet Honourable Members come here and discuss such a firm of high reputation so bitterly; they should rather have discussed the Director of Housing. And that is why I pointed out to the House that these expatriates are not here for our good (*interruption*)—

MR. OFORI ATTA: What kind of expatriates?

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: Any of them. Continental expatriates! The Dutch were the very first founders of this country. And even if you go to Cape Coast Castle you will see the picture of the first Governor of the Gold Coast there.

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: If the Honourable Member will confine himself to (*interruption*)—

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: They are troubling me, Mr. Chairman. As I said this firm is a firm of high reputation; they are known all over the world but obstacles were placed in their way by the Director of Housing, and that is why I pointed out in this House that whenever any continental firms come here to establish, obstacles are placed in their way by the Permanent Secretaries and the responsible officers in order to get their work slowed down and sabotage them and then go back to say that the thing is a failure. In our C.P.P. Manifesto we made it plain to the country that we were going to supply them with houses, and that is why the Schokbeton firm came; they came with the idea to build fifteen thousand houses if they were to be given the opportunity. But fancy it took them five months to get even a site plan and a plot of land in Kumasi. And with your permission, Mr. Chairman, I will refer to the dates. They arrived here on the 14th of February, 1952, but it was not until 25th July, 1952 that they first had a site plan and a plot—five complete months! And these people were at that time living at the expense of the Gold Coast Government. Is it their fault? No! It is the fault of the Director of Housing and his associates. And then, Mr. Chairman—(*interruption*).

11 a.m.

MR. ABUBEKR: On a point of order. The Director of Housing who is a Civil Servant is being constantly attacked by the Chief Whip—

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: According to section 48 of the Standing Orders, there is no mention that nobody should attack Civil Servants. It says the conduct of Her Majesty, any Member of the Assembly, but not Civil Servants. They are the people affected. Even if you are eating "fufu" and you do not put on soup, can you eat the "fufu"? (*laughter*). They say we should not mention the name of the man who is doing the thing. What are we going to do?

Even in the contract the Director of Housing has wide powers even more than the Governor of the Gold Coast. According to clause 7 of the Agreement the Director of Housing has every right to dismiss any member of the Schokbeton Company, giving him only 24 hours to pack and go. Has the Governor any powers like this? And they are still here at the expense of the Government.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Who signed the contract?

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: It was the Honourable former Minister of Housing. The Gold Coast people have voted £200,000 to give us 134 experimental houses in the country. In one of the clauses, the Director of Housing has wider powers than even the Governor of the Gold Coast, than even the Speaker himself (*laughter*). They made the thing bogus—to quote the Prime Minister—bogus and fraudulent, so much so that they wanted this thing to fail. I give you 24 hours to pack up and go! The Director of Housing has this power in the contract. They want only English firms to come and build. Why? We are all fed up. I should emphasise that the elements have been packed at Jacobu, Takoradi, Cape Coast, Kumasi and Ho, and the people are still here being paid from the revenue of this country. What is the Minister doing to see to it that these elements are put to proper use? When these people had not come here, did the Director of Housing know anything about prefabricated houses? Since he came here so many years ago has he designed anything of this nature?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: No!

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: Give the people the chance to build. If you give them the chance they will do marvellously. It is no miracle at all. Can the Schokbeton firm do miracles by building in the air? Are they magicians? Give the people the chance; their efforts are being sabotaged and it is for the Minister to investigate and report to this House. £200,000 has been voted out of our revenue and so I appeal to the Minister to see to it that these component parts or elements which are lying at Takoradi, Bibiani, Kumasi, Ho, Cape Coast, should be used by these men who are being paid at present. For five months they have done nothing. The Gold Coast people are paying them, so let them start. The Director of Housing says, "I am going to do it". Does he know how to build?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: No!

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: These people have built 64 sample houses and I think they have done well. Taking bread from an Englishman's mouth is not an easy thing (*laughter*). Taylor Woodrow is a well established English firm—

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: The U.A.C. is behind them; they brought them here!

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: I cannot say U.A.C. is behind them. They are well recognised in England. I remember I met a certain lady and she said to me, "your people say you want self-government and you want to give big contracts to English firms so that in the next 10 years the Gold Coast Government will be economically defeated". All the big contracts!

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: The Volta River Project!

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: When you go to any continental firm, they say, no. Even I have a case in point; a Medical Officer with 22 years experience appealed to this Government to come and practise here. They said no, because he was a Syrian. What are you doing here? Is this country yours? This is time for us to act. We are short of Medical Officers.

MR. BEDIAKO POKU: No Medical Officer at Bekwai!

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: We are short of Medical Officers. A Medical Officer with 22 years' experience wants to come here, and the Director of Medical Services says, "we do not want him".

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: On a point of order. We are dealing with Housing Estimates and I think the Honourable Member should leave the medical side.

DR. DANQUAH: On a point of order. When the Minister spoke he did not give us any facts about the Schokbeton houses and the Ministerial Secretary is giving us the facts. Give him the chance! (*Hear! Hear!*).

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: Even I have not finished, I am proving it.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Go on, give us the facts!

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: And even until now there are a lot of building plots which are not being allocated to these people, this Schokbeton firm. They are still in need of plots and they have not been allocated.

Go and see Cape Coast. The slum clearance has taken the Housing Department six months, and the elements of the Schokbeton firm are still lying there, and what are we doing here? The Permanent Secretary has been given top powers, even more than the Minister. What are we doing?

[MR. KROBO EDUSEI]

Many people have made the remark that the Civil Servants should not be criticised. I want to read the relevant Standing Order to you. There is no mention about the Civil Servants in this and anybody who likes can challenge me: "The conduct of Her Majesty, Members of the Royal Family, the Governor or other Officer Administering the Government, Members of the Assembly and Judges or other persons engaged in the administration of justice shall not be raised except upon a substantive motion . . .". Are they Members of the Royal Family? Are they Members of the Assembly? (*Laughter*). They are Civil Servants and we have to criticise them. If they do anything that is wrong we must criticise them. Even if my wife does wrong I have to direct her (*laughter*). I appeal to you, Mr. Chairman, to give us chance, because there is something going wrong; there is something fishy about the housing scheme and we have to point it out. When I was arrested, did anybody sympathise with me? No, except God. It is my people who brought me here and if there is any policy which is not in their interest we have to criticise them about it. Are they angels? They are not angels. We must tell them what to do. If you go to Liberia, all the Civil Servants, even when they see that—

MR. HUGH THOMAS: We are not in Liberia!

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: You came here long ago, and what are you still doing here? (*Laughter*). Imperialist!

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think you have to withdraw that word.

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: Mr. Chairman, I withdraw with apology, Sir. When I speak, I become hot and I want Honourable Members not to interrupt because we are very sad.

In Liberia when the Speaker of the House is in his car all the expatriates have to stop before he passes. When a Minister or even the President is coming all cars have to stop. And what is happening here? There the Minister of Housing will tell you what happened. On one occasion one man, called "The Protocol" shouted, "I say, open the door" and the door was opened. He spoke with authority; he had respect for us and we also had respect for him. Here in everything they say top secret. Is there any top secret to our Ministers? So I appeal to you, Honourable Members, that Schokbeton is not a failure. It is due to the sabotage of the Director of Housing and his associates and I appeal to you to exercise patience because already a survey team has been appointed. Their report has arrived and I hope it will be laid on the table before the end of this session. When it is laid on the table then you can give this Schokbeton firm a chance. We suggested that they could build houses for £200. They can build houses for £200 or even £150 if they have the factory and everything here, and I appeal to Honourable Members to have patience.

DR. ANSAH KOI: This is a very important subject and I hope the House will not mind if we speak with free and candid mind. It is rather incongruous to me to see that the Chief Whip of the Government comes to the Assembly praising or recommending the Schokbeton firm and in the same breath criticising his own Government for preventing Schokbeton to fulfil their contract. I would like to make it quite clear to this House that the Government themselves have found that the Schokbeton housing scheme has failed—

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: No!

11.15 a.m.

MR. BEDIAKO POKU: You went to Holland and saw these things and you never said anything.

DR. ANSAH KOI: I hope I will get protection from you, Mr. Chairman. When they were speaking and I wanted to raise a point of order, you said I should not interrupt and so when I am speaking they should not interrupt me with any point of order.

MR. BEDIAKO POKU: Are you the Speaker of the House?

DR. ANSAH KOI: Even the Chief Whip has said here that the failure of the Schokbeton houses is due to the imperialistic bureaucratic system. He said it here, and he said many things to prove it. I am saying that the Government themselves have found that the Schokbeton building scheme has failed and therefore they are trying to find out where to place the blame. The Chief Whip, the Ministerial Secretary to the Ministry of Justice, laid the blame on the imperialistic bureaucratic system. He said that there is an imperialistic system going on in the Government that is preventing even the Minister from carrying on with his work. The Ministerial Secretary said this here. Why did he say then that the scheme has not failed? Therefore my point in saying that they know that the scheme has failed is correct and I need not give any reason. What I would like to say is that the whole of the Schokbeton scheme is an imperialistic bureaucratic scheme backed by C.P.P. political bureaucratic system.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Shame! Shame!
Shame!

DR. ANSAH KOI: I will prove it to you that the whole thing is backed by the C.P.P. bureaucratic system, and that is why you are interested in the matter.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: You led the delegation to Holland!

DR. ANSAH KOI: We had a delegation, and that delegation was led by the present Minister of Local Government and Housing.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: But you were highly interested!

DR. ANSAH KOI: Mr. Chairman, I hope you will ask them to keep quiet while I speak.

The Schokbeton houses are the direct product of the Ministry of Development under the direct control and supervision of the Prime Minister in his capacity as the Minister of Development.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: It is not so.

DR. ANSAH KOI: It was so when I was there; I am speaking with facts. I know everything and I can prove that this Schokbeton thing is not the product of the Minister of Housing; it is the direct product of the Minister of Development and not the Minister of Local Government and Housing. Even I have letters to prove that. Therefore when I am speaking it should be noted that the Ministry of Housing only played the part of an agent to the Minister of Development and as technical adviser and supervisor over the work of the Schokbeton Firm in respect of land acquisition, planning and problems relating to buildings in this country. The Ministry of Development and not the Ministry of Housing was responsible to the Government for the Schokbeton houses. What part was played by the Standing Development Committee? What part did it play in respect of the Schokbeton houses? Did it not play the part of approving and directing the policy of the building of the Schokbeton houses and was not the Standing Development Committee the creation of the Government? And was not the policy of the Schokbeton houses formed by the Ministry of Development? I put these facts to the Minister and if he refutes them, I can prove everything to him.

Was it not a fact that the Minister of Housing frequently warned the Ministry of Development of the probable high cost of the Schokbeton houses? And was it not the determined policy of the Minister of Development to carry on with the building of the Schokbeton houses irrespective of the ultimate cost of those buildings? And was this not initially the cause of the trouble between myself and the Prime Minister?

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Shame! Shame!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not put up a defence.

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: You are a stooge!

DR. ANSAH KOI: I think this is sufficient to show that the Ministry of Housing has no responsibility for the policy of the building of the Schokbeton houses except only for the technical advice and the supervision thereof. I am prepared to prove this case, and if the Chairman would allow it, even a committee of this House could be appointed to go into it to find out where lies the cause of failure of the Schokbeton buildings.

[DR. ANSAH KOI]

It has been said that when the Schokbeton firm came here they were not given sites. This is completely erroneous and I think the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Housing is here and if the Minister does not know he will tell him that sites for these houses were found even before the elements of the Schokbeton prefabricated buildings arrived on the shores here. Many of them were found and buildings could have been constructed at these places long before other new sites could be explored. Sites were found for them in Kumasi, but when they came, they refused those sites and wanted a new site. But you know that Government procedure must go on and you must pass through that procedure to acquire lands. You cannot just say I want this and then get it at once; you must go through all the paraphernalia of Government administrative processes to provide sites. Therefore, to say that sites were not given to these people when they came is all false.

The whole cause of this problem was that these Schokbeton contractors were ignorant of labour conditions in this country; they were ignorant of labour conditions; they were ignorant in matters of building in this country; in fact they were ignorant of the whole conditions of the country. Therefore, when they came they had to make new labour arrangements; new building arrangements and so forth, and these things were being interfered with by some of the C.P.P. interested members.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Shame! Shame!
Shame!

DR. ANSAH KOI: These C.P.P. leaders were interfering even with the Ministry of Housing itself so that the work could not go smoothly to enhance the rapidity that we require. (Shame! Shame! Shame!). Mr. Chairman, I am saying here that the causes of the failure of the Schokbeton buildings was not due to the Ministry of Housing. You say you now have a strong Minister. Why? Has he been rendered impotent by the imperialistic bureaucratic system and C.P.P. elements? Why is it that for nearly six months now he has not been able to produce something to show that he is strong? The system in your Ministry, in your Government, is wrong, and it is interfered with by the so-called C.P.P. members who think that they can do what they like. Conferences had been held between the Minister of Housing and the Prime Minister as Minister of Development without his Permanent Secretary about this Schokbeton affair. There was interference by these C.P.P. members. When there were some troubles in Kumasi as anywhere else, instead of the Schokbeton firm coming to the Minister of Housing and laying their complaint to him for him to solve the problem, they would go to the Prime Minister—the Schokbeton firm themselves—they would go there and they would

[DR. ANSAH KOI]

go with the C.P.P. leaders, who speak to convince the Prime Minister, confusing his mind and then when this had been done, they would come round to say, "What are you doing?"

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Are you not a C.P.P. member?

DR. ANSAH KOI: How can the Minister of Housing know their troubles if the Schokbeton firm were not directly complaining to him but going to the Prime Minister who was being interfered with and confused by the C.P.P. elements? These were most of the causes why your scheme failed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think you have explained your point sufficiently enough.

DR. ANSAH KOI: Well, I hope that the House will realise that it was not the Ministry of Housing which is responsible for this failure.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Go on!

MR. OHENE-DJAN: He is already exhausted.

DR. ANSAH KOI: Now, the Housing Loans Scheme. This Housing Loans Scheme should have been put into operation a long time ago.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Why?

DR. ANSAH KOI: But the formation of the District Councils which were supposed to form the Housing Loans Boards were delayed in many cases. I am glad that as the Minister said that there are ten Housing Loans Boards to be formed, and I hope these Boards will be formed as quickly as possible in order to enable these Housing Loans Boards to work efficiently. What help are the people in the rural areas actually receiving in the matter of this Housing Loans Scheme? Some of them are not able to put down the deposit required nor are they able to start building in order to be given loans by the Government. These people are also in a position in which they cannot avail themselves of the subsidised housing scheme as in the cities and the urban towns. What are Government therefore going to do for them? This Subsidised Housing Scheme is a scheme for people of the lower income groups, those people who cannot afford to put up their own buildings. The people who are in the rural areas cannot put up their own buildings and there is no system of subsidising housing in the rural areas. How are you going to house these people in the rural areas? How are you going to help them to build their own houses? This hire-purchase system would not help the poor rural people; the loans will not be available to them because they would not be able from their meagre incomes to contribute to these hire-purchase houses.

[DR. ANSAH KOI]

Where would they get the money and put down as deposit for this Housing Loans Scheme? Therefore I am putting it to the Minister to consider them in some way and see that they also can have some building assistance from the Government. I am saying therefore that some sort of subsidised Housing Scheme should also be worked out for the rural areas and cocoa plantation areas, and so forth.

MR. HAGAN: You are wasting time—no facts!

DR. ANSAH KOI: Mr. Chairman, Housing Estate Managers—

CHAIRMAN: You are keeping too long.

DR. ANSAH KOI: Mr. Chairman, I have been speaking for only ten minutes; the Ministerial Secretary spoke as long as half an hour, and he is a Member of the Government.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: He gave out facts!

DR. ANSAH KOI: Am I speaking nonsense?

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Yes!

DR. ANSAH KOI: I am sorry, but—

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Order! Order! Order!

DR. ANSAH KOI: Well, if I am speaking nonsense I do not think there is any use in my coming to the Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, Housing Estate Managers. When I was the Minister I was approached by these Housing Estate Managers; they wanted to have some assistance whereby they could improve their knowledge to enable them efficiently to carry on their work. Give them some scholarships in order to go abroad and learn Estate Housing Management. There is nothing at all given them here to enable them to do their work efficiently. And I am suggesting to the Minister that he should give them scholarships to enable them to learn Housing Management.

Then the rural development funds. We have these Rural Development Committees in the rural areas and the questions with which they are faced in the rural areas is this. Why is it that the people are being made to pay levy, being made to pay taxes and yet at the same time being asked to do community labour to supply themselves with essentials of life in order to put up buildings say a hall, a lorry park, a market and so forth while they are paying levy? I submit to the Government that they should provide local areas with sufficient funds to enable them to build what they want in view of the fact that they are paying sufficient and even higher levies at the present time?

Now, the last but not the least, the Ketan-Tanokrom houses. At Takoradi and Sekondi these houses were destroyed by the Municipal Council there. When I was Minister at that time I went

11.30 a.m.

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and inspected these buildings and I was very surprised to see that most of the buildings or houses that were built of swish were not disgraceful at all to any community and they should not have been pulled down just because the boundary of the township had been extended to include that area. That does not mean that the people should not go to their houses when the houses were built before the extension of the township. I am appealing to the Minister that the owners of these houses which were destroyed or demolished should be given some sort of compensation to enable them to build other houses either in the form of subsidised housing scheme or housing loans scheme.

I disagree with people who say that the Rent Control Ordinance is unworkable. This was a Bill of the Government, it was not a Bill of Ansaah Koi at all. It was a Government Bill and the Government as a whole were responsible for it. I am convinced that the Rent Control Committee can justifiably and efficiently do its work if it is backed by goodwill on the part of the people. The Rent Control Ordinance came into being lately to prevent the poor men and poor women from being taken advantage of by the cruel capitalists. If you knew the type of conditions in which some tenants suffered when they were thrown out of their homes, their things taken away and thrown into the rain, into the mud, and some even having their roofs taken away to let in the rain to beat or soak their properties in order to force them to get out, you would know the conditions under which these people were suffering, under the old system of rent control. You would see that they required some form of protection and that protection was given to them in this way, that no tenant should be removed except on an order by the competent authority who would give the order and that competent authority is the court.

Mr. Chairman, therefore I do not see that the Rent Control Ordinance has failed to work properly and the Minister should do his best to set up a systematic and progressive organisation in all the areas and not only in the big towns where high rents prevail. This will bring good relationship between the tenants and the landlords because the tenants do not want to offend their landlords to give them the feeling that they are taking them to the Rent Assessment Committee or to the Court. Therefore if these things are spontaneously done by the committees themselves, I hope they will help to cement the relationship between the tenant and the landlord.

MR. B. F. KUSI: Mr. Chairman, I come from the rural area, therefore I have every right to charge this Government for failing in their housing scheme. I have not seen the housing scheme being implemented in the rural areas. The Government have also failed to set the example of using local materials in order.

[MR. KUSI]

to encourage people who have little capital to produce their own houses. If the Ministry of Housing will set the example of using local materials, we shall, as the Honourable Municipal Member for Sekondi-Takoradi has just suggested, use the labour of our own people—we have the sand, stone, gravel and other materials which can be produced cheaply—for building cheaper houses for the people of this country. So I would suggest to the Minister of Housing to initiate a scheme which will be very useful in experimenting with our own local materials for producing houses.

The Ministry has also failed to use the labour of our African contractors. I have one best example to give and that is in respect of an Ashanti young man called Mr. S. K. Manu who is a building contractor at Damongo. Those of our friends in the Northern Territories who have seen the work of this African contractor will no doubt highly recommend this young man. We require such African young men but the Minister has denied the labour of our own African contractors.

Mr. Chairman, the need for rural housing is most urgent. People in the municipal towns will however congratulate the Government because they have experimental houses built by the Schokbeton people and also they have the Housing Estates in the municipal towns. But in the rural areas we have no housing programme. I am suggesting to the Minister that I have seen since the Assembly was opened that the Government have concentrated on developing the municipal towns but the rural areas are most important because they provide the food, the timber, cocoa and other materials. And if the Government will provide houses for the rural areas it will give the people of the rural areas every comfort and they will stick to the rural areas and produce more food.

The United Kingdom Government has a very fine housing policy which is being embarked upon with the support of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Housing. I would suggest therefore that the Minister of Health in the Gold Coast must give assistance to the Minister of Housing in providing better ventilated houses for the people of the rural areas.

I would beg to refer to page 129 of the draft Estimates 1953-54—Development. We have Housing Scheme and then Housing Loans Scheme:—

Cape Coast	£1,800
Takoradi	£1,800
Accra	£1,800
Ashanti	£1,800
Northern Territories	£1,800.

I would suggest that the Minister is not very serious in improving housing in the rural areas. If you give to each of the municipal towns £1,800 and you give the whole of Ashanti rural areas £1,800

[MR. KUSI]

how do you expect the people in the rural areas to benefit by this £1,800 to provide houses? This Government are not very serious; they are an African Government and they must be very serious and provide houses to give us health. If we have no good houses our health will not improve.

I will say very little about the Schokbeton Housing Company. We have every evidence to prove in this House that the Schokbeton Housing Scheme has been a complete failure. I was very sorry this morning to see a Gold Coast African defending such a housing scheme when he really knows in his heart that this scheme has been a failure, and it has landed the country into a heavy expenditure. It has been proved in the House. They have not been able to complete their contract within the period given them and the cheapest houses they have built cost between £2,000 and £2,500. How do you expect the average young man earning £15 to £20 a month to be able to afford a house costing £2,500? You have told people in the rural areas that you are importing foreigners to come and provide them with cheaper houses. To-day you tell us, because you want to save your faces, that the housing scheme is not a failure and you shift the blame on to the Director of Housing. The Director of Housing is a civil servant and if you feel that he is not doing his work properly I do not see why you do not check him. It is not the fault of the Director of Housing. The whole thing was started by underground work because some Honourable Members were personally interested in it.

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: Mr. Chairman, I want him to withdraw. I am not interested.

MR. KUSI: I am not going to withdraw. He was the man who introduced this Schokbeton Company to the Asantehene, the occupant of the Golden Stool. The Schokbeton Company has nothing to do with the Asantehene.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Shame, shame, shame.

MR. KUSI: Members of the Schokbeton Company were invited to the Wilben Hotel.

NANA BOAKYE DANKWA: On a point of order. It is our custom that any stranger who visits Kumasi should be introduced to the Asantehene and he in turn sends him his greetings so that if these Schokbeton people were introduced to him, I think it was in order.

MR. KUSI: Thank you. I also know Ashanti customs. Will the Honourable Member tell me whether when the U.A.C. or all the other firms came here, they were introduced to the Asantehene. I know Ashanti custom. We all have the interest of the Gold Coast at heart.

MR. BEDIAKO POKU: Mrs. Aggrey was introduced to the Asantehene.

MR. KUSI: As far as money is concerned we cannot undertake this Dutch housing scheme to cost the country more than we can afford. What was the use of sending 30 Africans to Holland? It is moral corruption. These Members before they went were the strongest agitators against this housing scheme but as soon as they came back to the Gold Coast they became convinced. We have got materials here; why is it that this Company cart materials which cost about £200 to build a single house? Have you not got the sense of responsibility to estimate? I would suggest to the Government very seriously, this country is for us, it is not for one man and they must see and provide cheaper houses for this country. They must not in their own interest bargain with any firm to provide houses at heavy cost.

MR. OFORI ATTA: Mr. Chairman, in 1951 and 1952 whenever the subject of self-government was raised in this House, emotions rose. In 1952 and 1953 whenever we mentioned Schokbeton emotions rise in this House. Now we must remember, Sir, as the Chief Whip has said, that the Dutch were the first imperialists in this country and they are still imperialists, and therefore this problem before us must be discussed with cool judgment. In my view the British imperialists are not as dangerous as foreign imperialists because whatever they do they have a permanent interest in this country. But the foreign imperialists have only a temporary interest in this country and therefore when we examine a scheme of this nature involving millions of pounds we ought to do justice to our country by being honest to ourselves and by examining criticisms objectively.

11.45 a.m.

In the 1930's business companies in England were investing at £100 million for advertisements. Now let us ask the U.A.C.: who pays ultimately for U.A.C. advertisements for Bedford Trucks and this truck and that truck? The ultimate consumer pays for it. Now we have to be honest to ourselves and ask this question: who paid ultimately for the Holland trip? They say it was the Dutch Government. All right! Who will pay ultimately for this Dutch trip? We have to pay. And when we are thinking of £2,000 for a three-room house we must remember that part of the cost of your trip is involved in that. (Hear! Hear!). We must also remember that it is because of the African's nature; we are hospitable and we are generous and we return hospitality for hospitality. But some of us Honourable Members because of the hospitality which we have accepted from the Dutch Government and from the Dutch Firms are not free when we come to discuss this problem. And I want to appeal to this Government that

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never again should we do a thing like this by accepting hospitality from firms or countries interested in things of this nature. It is bad, morally bad.

Now with Schokbeton, my personal view is this, that Schokbeton houses may be very good; they may be first class; but it is a wrong economic policy. That is all, and I am going to show you and I would like you to keep this slogan in your head; it is an American advertisement: "It is superb, it is superlative, it is superfluous". That is what the Schokbeton houses are; they are superb, they are superlative, but they are superfluous; (hear! hear! hear!) and I am going to show you so. I must confess that the Honourable the Minister of Local Government has disappointed me. When the Minister of Education came in last week, he impressed us, because although his educational policy is wrong, he was prepared to admit most of his mistakes. I do not think that the Ministry of Local Government have come to us to admit their mistakes. If we examine the Development Plan, paragraph 161, we will find a clear statement of the problems we are faced with in housing: high cost of materials, high cost of labour, shortage of skilled labour, lack of mechanisation. These are some of the difficulties. I will say the Minister has given no indication that these are our difficulties. We have played with this housing scheme for two years; we know some of the difficulties; in fact we have studied some of the difficulties, but we have not yet brought up a plan to remove these difficulties. Now if we take our advisors seriously we shall find that one of the big problems to the development of housing is that the Public Works Department is overloaded, and that the cost of building is high, because they cannot provide the necessary staff to supervise. Where is the scheme? Your advisors have shown you the way that you must employ more staff in the Public Works Department, and you have not done that. They have also said that one of the great obstacles in the development of housing in this country is that there is no speck of continuity of personnel which is desirable for a development of this nature. And what does it mean? Three, or four or five years ago, during the war there was somebody who had a fancy, and his fancy was stabilised swish, and he went into experiment with stabilised swish. That man went away, another man came and he is not interested. That is one argument for Africanisation in the administration of this nature or in the department concerned, and to complete that there should be continuity of policy. It is very important.

It is sometimes useful—I was going to say "wise", but I may not be understood—it is sometimes useful to wait to see the effects of your actions and then to become wise after that. But it is sometimes also useful to try to foresee some of the difficulties before

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you act. When the Development Plan was being debated, we told you that it was not a plan at all. Now if you will turn to paragraph 326 of the Report by Seers and Ross, you will find this judgment:—

“ The most noticeable thing about the Development Plan is that it is not a “ Plan ” at all, in the sense of being a programme of the sequence of events by which certain precise economic objectives are to be achieved within a specified period ”.

You will think I was writing that; and I told you so, and you have this document; you had advice from us and still you have not yet produced a plan. Why am I saying so? Seers and Ross say that our economy is not buoyant, but it is fragile; it is weak, it is sensitive; we depend upon a few imports and depend exclusively upon three or four exports, and the factors for the control of our economy are all outside this country, and therefore a wise Government would try and develop certain defence mechanism, certain shock-absorbers in its economy, in order that its economy will not get out of hand. And that is what most countries are doing; they are trying to use a housing policy as one of these defence mechanisms. What do they do? First of all, they all concentrate on using local materials as much as possible, local materials, raw materials, local labour and local factories, so that in periods of depression when activities are low they will be able to pump purchasing power into the economy by concentrating on housing. That is one of the defence mechanisms. Also we have seen that our port capacity is weak and therefore a wise Government would try to concentrate on local building materials in order to save our port capacity for the essential goods which we need for the Volta River Project or for other developments. So I say that we have to examine these criticisms objectively from a strong nationalistic point of view. These Schokbeton houses may be excellent, beautiful things, and they may last for 246 years—Dr. Adjani is asking us to live to 246 years (*laughter*)—but still we may say that it is wrong. Let us try to find out what we can do with bricks and tiles, what we can do even with ordinary swish or things of that nature. It is very important, and if the Government do not pursue a policy of this nature then I shall say that they are doing great injustice to this country. As far as I am concerned I am fully convinced that the Schokbeton experiment is no use to us and that the Honourable Gentleman should not allow a reputable firm to do that sort of thing but they should go home.

I am happy to find in the Minister's statement that he recognises this fact that we cannot depend upon the Government for all the houses that we need. This is a very great fact and that is what we have been telling the Government all the time. We

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told the Government when we were debating the Rent Control Bill that they must not give the impression to private enterprises that they are trying to put restrictions in their way. And although there is a necessity, I agree with the ex-Minister when he was defending himself that there was the necessity to bring the Rent Control Bill, but it should not have been in the restrictive terms in which the Rent Control Bill was drafted. Although he is out he and the Government will always be held responsible. (Hear! Hear!). So the present policy of the Government should be to find out how much Local Authorities can do; how much private enterprise can do and how much the Central Government can do. All these estimates must be fairly accurate. We say we are building houses. Does the Minister of Local Government know how many houses are required to save us from our present predicament? He does not know. There is no one man in the whole Government who cares to know about it.

Now there is the old policy and the present policy: We were just building houses; for whom? For the Honourable Member for Ga-Adangbe, the Territorial Member, to live in a Castle? We did not know. Were we building for the upper class, the middle class, the lower class, the farmers? We did not know. Were we building for people of the low income group or the high income group? We did not know. Were we building for urban or rural areas? We did not know. Therefore I advise the Government that before they go any step further they should sit down with their experts and try to find out how many houses would be required in the next two years to house us properly; how much can be done by the Local Authorities and how much by the Central Government, and how much by private enterprises. And then they should find out how many for each class: the £10,000 group, the £3,000 group, our group and the £250 group. Then the others. It is only faintly recognised here that, as far as the people in the rural areas are concerned, most of them would not even be able to pay for this house by instalments or pay for it in rents. And therefore we must try to devise a scheme to suit their needs. Most of them would want to know what designs there are for houses, what are the materials, what things are there, and to be taught by some more demonstration how to build these houses for themselves. If we do not do that, if we do not enable a large part of the people in the North and in the farming areas to build for themselves, and if we expect them to be able to pay £25, or £10 or £6, or even 10s. a month, we are deceiving ourselves.

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Then the Minister has no excuse because he were led to hope that this Ministry was going to do something magnificent to the oppressed farmers and people in the rural areas and also for the

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miners. Paragraph 164 of the Development Plan gave that trumpet: what was the trumpet?

"The Government is fully aware of the contribution which has been made to the country's prosperity and welfare by the farmers and miners from whose efforts most of the country's revenue derives".

That is how the chapter on rural housing begins. It acknowledges the fact that the revenue, the prosperity of this country had been built from the energies and resources of farmers in the rural areas and of miners and so they were going to use their resources to advance a bold policy to give them houses; there is none. We have not seen any houses in the rural areas and I agree with the Ministerial Secretary to the Ministry of Justice that it is time for us to act. He has in his speech shown that for the past two years we have been only deceiving ourselves, and our Government have not been acting. They have allowed Civil Servants to dictate to them and to put all sorts of obstacles in their way, and therefore this is time for us to act. As far as I am concerned I will rally to that call.

Now, one of the reasons against Schokbeton is that the economic advisers tell us that imports of building materials form 40 per cent of building costs. That is a very high percentage and I appeal to the Government to try and adopt a bold policy to redress that. We have been told here also that in some of the contracts given by the Public Works Department there is provision that the machinery and tools should be obtained only from the United Kingdom and this fact is restricting building activities. You will find that evidence in the footnote of page 117:—

"For this reason, if for no other, there is now little point in paragraph 35 of the P.W.D.'s standard contract, which requires contractors to promise that 'in so far as practicable all tools and materials used on the works shall be products of the British Empire'".

And they admit there that the British Empire cannot supply all our needs and that even the United Kingdom is finding it difficult to provide herself with her own needs, and here we allow either the Government or the Public Works Department to insert a clause of this nature in the contract, that all the tools and machinery should be got from the United Kingdom. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I could go on like that to show that the economic policy on housing is wrong. We ought boldly to acknowledge the fact that it is wrong and we ought to turn backwards in this direction, turn our face North and look at our local building materials, and ask "Is that how we build in the South and how we build in the North?" We know there is shortage of labour. Try and train men and let us use our man-power and natural resources to build, so that we can save ourselves from this precarious and slavish dependence upon imports and upon foreigners.

MR. BEDIAKO POKU: Mr. Chairman, my view on the Schokbeton Housing Scheme is unbiased because when my colleagues were going to Holland I was being entertained by Her Majesty's Government at Sekondi; but according to the *London Times* of 17th March, 1953, Their Lordships of the Privy Council have proved that my case was wrongly decided by the West African Court of Appeal.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Congrats! That is good.

MR. BEDIAKO POKU: Mr. Chairman, before I speak, I would like to put four questions to the Minister:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Accra Housing Estate houses are let out to people on hire purchase basis? What are the hire rates for the different types of estate buildings?
- (2) Does the hire purchase system apply to the type of estate houses in which the Ministerial Secretary to the Prime Minister stays at the East Christiansborg Estate? If not, why are these not let out on hire purchase basis; and what rent is paid by the occupiers? How many of such type of estate houses are in Accra?
- (3) Does the hire purchase system apply to the other estates at Kumasi, Sekondi-Takoradi, Cape Coast, Tarkwa and Obuasi? If not, why?
- (4) In the opinion of the Minister, if Schokbeton factories are established in the country how much will the various types of houses cost the country?

I also want to thank the Minister for the Housing Statement he gave to the House this morning, but I would like to draw his attention to the fact that we have on many occasions had such laudable statements in this House; so I would implore him to see that the statement is implemented as early as possible. In the first place, I would like Members to ask themselves, is this Schokbeton Building Scheme established only in this Gold Coast or whether it is established all over the world. I am going to give out certain statements to Members and after my statement Members will have the right either to accept the Schokbeton Housing Scheme or reject the whole scheme *in toto*.

For any development of any sort, from the Volta Scheme to the setting up of the simplest light industries in this country, building is most essential. But, unfortunately, the building industry as it exists in this country to-day is not capable of carrying through the Government Development Plan or to provide the buildings necessary for the industrialisation which is proposed; and here, Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I would like to quote from the Report of the two British experts Mr. Dudley Seers and Mr. C. R. Ross who were appointed by the Minister of Finance to examine the economic situation in this country—

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. They were not appointed to examine the economic situation.

MR. BEDIAKO POKU: Any way their report states: Report on the Financial Problems in this country—and they state as follows:

“ the present position and the likely development of the building industry in the Gold Coast. Technical skill, scarcities of materials, shortages of contracting capacity and engineers all restrict the amount of work that the building industry can handle. . . . It would be easy enough for the demands of the Development Plan—let alone the Volta River Project as well—to overload the building industry. The shortage of Public Works Department staff means that direct labour building cannot be increased. . . . If contract building is increased too fast contractors undertake extra work which they know the Public Works Department cannot supervise adequately; higher profits compensate the contractor—but not the Government—for the loss of efficiency that comes from trying to do too much. Half-completed buildings become a familiar part of the landscape. . . . As the Development Plan takes effect, the demand for private building will increase. . . . Additional money in the hands of the public as a result of big development projects will further encourage private building. Rents will increase sharply in areas of development. It will be profitable to build not only houses, but also shops and cinemas. . . . Private and public investment may therefore be competing for scarce resources, so that shortages are made more acute. . . . ”

Mr. Chairman, I shall also like, after reading this report, to draw the attention of the Minister to his answer to a question this morning. It is very remarkable that the answer coincided with the debate on the Housing Department. The Minister in answering Question No. 248 said:—

“ Temporary aluminium housing is being used to accommodate railway staff at Dunkwa ”.

When I was at school my teacher taught me a golden rule in life and it goes thus:

“ Do unto others what ye shall have others do unto you ”.

We are in a very warm country and the temperature at times is 80°F. and I do not think the Minister or any Member of this Assembly would like to live in an aluminium house in this country. Because all the hygienic conditions of living in an aluminium house in this country are known to all Honourable Members and it will not serve any useful purpose for me to dilate upon them; so I would suggest to the Minister that at this moment

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we do not need aluminium houses. They do not suit the climatic conditions of this country, so the railway employees should not be forced to live in aluminium houses.

I would also ask the Minister to do his best to see that the proposed Cement Factory is implemented as early as possible, because one-third of the cost of building is accounted for by the cost of cement and it costs more to bring a bag of cement to the Gold Coast than it does to buy that same bag in England. Cement is expensive but the amount brought to the Gold Coast in any year is limited by shipping space, storage facilities and the availability of railway wagons which in some months of the year has to compete with cocoa. In consequence it is always in short supply. The same thing is true of steel and iron required for reinforced concrete buildings.

The designing of houses: The present architectural designs for Government buildings in this country are also very bad. Houses must be designed to be cool, not aluminium houses. Houses must be cool at all times, and must stand up to local storms and keep clean and dry throughout the year. I am told by my expert that the population of the Gold Coast is increasing at a rapid rate and by 1959 it is estimated that the population of the country will amount to about five million. Obviously a big housing drive is desirable. So I am asking the Minister to direct his attention to the housing problem of the country. But do not forget, if all the shipping space is taken up by bringing materials for building and development there will be no space to carry more goods; they will therefore be competing for scarce supplies. Schemes like the Volta River Project and Tema Harbour cannot be undertaken unless Government have behind them an efficiently organised building industry which can put up quickly and cheaply the Government and other buildings which are essential to our developmental work. Everyone will agree with me that houses should not go to those who can most easily afford to pay for them, but those who are most in need of them.

12.15 p.m.

I am now going to tackle the Schokbeton Housing Scheme. With these foregoing outlines, I think Members will agree with me that at the present moment, the country needs a very strong and organised Housing Industry; and, in the arguments adduced by Members of the Opposition, none of them was able to tell me that they do not like the Schokbeton houses because the prices are high or they do not like the houses because they are not good or because they are prefabricated and that they cannot withstand the storms of the country. If you compare the Schokbeton houses with the

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Government houses or housing estates in the country, you will see that the Schokbeton houses are better than many of the Government houses now in this country. If you go to the Accra Zongo Housing Estate you will find that the buildings there are a complete disgrace to our Housing Department. The Minister himself is aware that students in the Local Government School cannot sleep when there is a downpour of rain. The whole room is flooded with water and all the tenants in the estates get drenched. If you go near the wall and are not careful with your skin, you get a scratch. The walls are so rough that they have nick-named them "sand paper walls" in your estate at Sabon Zongo. So in comparison with the Schokbeton houses in this country, which I have seen myself, I know very well that they are better than all the Government Estates in this country.

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: Hear! Hear! Hear!

MR. KUSI: Shame! Shame!

MR. POKU: People seem to be startled at the cost of the present Schokbeton prefabricated experimental houses. The relevant cause for the high cost is the deliberate obstruction by the Housing Authorities, but in spite of this the Dutch Firm has tried to keep down the cost considerably. If you compare the cost of the Schokbeton houses which are more durable and by far better than some of the houses built for Government on contract, you will find that the Schokbeton houses are cheaper. For instance, Members can verify from this, that a house at the University College which contains only two rooms and a hall cost £5,000. Schokbeton's of two rooms with a hall, kitchen, lavatory and store, cost less than £3,000. What is the difference? And yet the Authorities of the Housing Department are happy about the unreasonably high cost of houses built at the University College by the European contractors. The firm of Schokbeton is world-famous in buildings; apart from their famous factory in Holland, they have two factories in India and Pakistan; they have been invited by the Lebanon to build a factory; the site has already been provided. They are building two factories in Syria and they have been negotiating to build three factories in Arabia. At present, they have been invited to France to supply their building components for a three-year scheme for housing the people. They have been invited to America. Schokbeton do not intend to import building components into this country and as soon as their factories are established in this country, I am sure the prices of their houses will go down considerably.

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Before I finish, I would like to suggest to the Minister to go to the estate at Sabon Zongo in Accra and go into the grievances of the tenants there and to see also to improve the conditions of the buildings. The European contractors who built these houses did not build them well and the Minister should go and investigate into the grievances of these tenants.

DR. DANQUAH: Mr. Chairman, the difference between a house in the Northern Territories and a house in Ashanti or the Colony is that one is round and the other is square or oblong. In all other respects the houses in which people live—the people about whom we are concerned—whether in the North or in the South are the same; no windows, no verandahs, no roads, no protection against erosion and not even anything to enable them to keep these houses in decent occupation. The Government talk about housing. A Minister of Housing, for what purpose? To house whom? A few well-to-do clerks; a few Ministerial Secretaries; a few cocoa magnates, or the people? There is a population of four and half million in this country, and the Government are so ambitious as to talk of a Ministry of Housing. Do you seriously suggest that you are going to provide houses for the four and half million people? Let us assume—

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: How?

DR. DANQUAH: Ask your Government! Let us assume that one million of the 4½ million people are already housed; we have 3½ million left. And let us assume that five people will take one house. Then you have to provide 700,000 houses for the people of this country. If even you constructed 7,000 houses each year, it will take you 100 years. You told us this morning, that the Government's earthquake housing scheme from 1939 to date has produced 753 houses, that is in 13 years! And you told us that you intend to provide within the five years plan, 500 houses. How can you talk of housing? What you need is a Government Estate Housing Department, not a Ministry of Housing. Because if you want to tackle this problem seriously, it would not mean a question of Schokbeton or Taylor Woodrow; it would be a question of revolutionising the whole life of people of this country. This is the question, how? In Sudan, they have found the answer. They are building houses with local materials, with local labour and local directive costing not more than £200. I have spoken to the Minister about it; I have suggested to him to send somebody there to see how it is being done. They are providing houses for the people, not for the well-to-do people but for the masses of the people.

I do not know what to say about Schokbeton, because we have been told this morning by the Ministerial Secretary to the

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Ministry of Justice that the fault does not lie on Schokbeton, but on the Government, their advisers, on imperialism. I do not know why this Government do not know the answer. Why they do not know that Imperialism will not make it possible for Schokbeton to succeed in any case. The Dutch are imperialists; they are competitors to the British in Imperialism and the British are not going to sit down to allow the Dutch to capture their Colony. I remember in 1930 I went to Holland and I met a Dutch Diamond Director and he said, "One of the saddest things in the history of the Dutch people is that in 1871 we sold our Gold Coast possessions to the British for £10,000". If only the Dutch could take this country back, they would take it like that (*snaps the fingers*). The British are not going to allow them. And the Ministerial Secretary to the Ministry of Justice said, "taking bread from the Englishman is not an easy thing". Yes, taking bread from an Englishman is not an easy thing. That is true. If even we become self-governing and still remain in the British Commonwealth, you can depend on it that it will never happen. The houses are costing now £2,000 to £6,000 each, and we are assured by the Ministerial Secretary that if the Dutch had the chance, they could reduce the cost of the houses to £150 or £200 each. Well and good. I have not myself seen the Dutch houses. But I take the Minister's word and trust that they are good. But this is the question. Can they be allowed ever to arrive at the position where they can build houses for £200? They planned to build 15,000 houses in a year. Well, will this ever happen for the sterling area to allow the Dutch guilder to capture this country's millions of pounds and send them to Holland? The Government ought to have known about these things. The Government ought to have known that it is impossible in the nature of things for any British Government to allow the Dutch to succeed. And we have been told in the Finance Committee that when the Dutch started to ship their elements to this country, they wanted to send the building elements in their own ships and somebody called the Conference Lines—the Shipping Companies—asked them "Where are you going to?"—They said "We are going to the Gold Coast". "With what?" "With building elements of cement". "In whose ship?"—"In our own ships". "You cannot go there, go in our ship". This is why the transport costs were so high. I ask the Government to review the whole of the Housing Policy. I ask the Government to think first of the masses of the people. We do not want the houses for the better classes. When we talk of housing the people, we mean the people, and those well-to-do people can look after themselves. That is not the question. We must concentrate on making it possible for the people in the rural areas who have contributed money to the progress of this country to have decent houses, decent townships, with roads and other conveniences.

[DR. DANQUAH]

Now, to talk about Rents Control Ordinance. It is quite good to control rents; but the Minister is also thinking of private individuals being called in to build houses. Do you think that the capitalist with £500,000 or £1 million is going to build houses in this country if he knows you are going to control the rents in such an absurd manner that he will be unable to make anything out of his capital? The Government must know these things. You must have big people among you who can think things in the best way. You must get yourselves together and devise a plan, not only for housing but for other things in this country. Your Development Plan has been completely thrown out of gear and you are left now with the Dutch anchor on your hands. The Minister said that the Dutch have not failed; it is true that the Dutch have not failed but the scheme has failed. They were to build 164 houses or 163 houses for £200,000; they have been able to build 64 houses for £241,000 and they did this in about six months or so. The Minister told us this morning that he intends to allow the Dutch to go on building 104 houses if we give him the chance. We have been told in the Finance Committee—and I do not know why he does not know it—that the scheme has practically failed and the Government want a little money from the Finance Committee to enable them to wind up and pay out the Dutch and send them away. Now, you say you are going to build 104 houses. Mr. Minister, I ask you to open your eyes and see that the Dutch are imperialists, and the British are imperialists and they are not going to allow the Dutch to come and capture their territory.

MR. J. E. HAGAN: Mr. Chairman, I am very happy that the Minister has been able to-day to give us a new policy. I was one of the people who served on the delegation to Holland and I was really convinced that the prefabricated buildings are ideal ones. You could not see in Holland any sign of poverty. It means Holland has been well planned. Where they have to fight against even natural forces, they were able to reclaim these lands and a well-laid housing plan has been carried out by the Government for which the Schokbeton factory has been able to provide buildings for the poor class of people at a very low cost. It was the intention of this firm to produce buildings befitting the dignity of the workers but British Imperialists have been able to sabotage the whole scheme. They intend shipping these elements in their own ship to produce these things at as low a cost as possible for the commoner. But then, we have the infiltration of the British Imperialism to undermine the whole scheme. I know how hard it was for the Minister of Development to sign the contract. They went about dilly-dallying about the whole thing and there even came a conflict. So I am really convinced that if our Ministers will try very hard and put their feet down they will be able to produce something for the Gold Coast.

[MR. HAGAN]

Mr. Chairman, I would like to call the attention of the Minister that three years ago there was a scheme for slum clearance in Cape Coast. As you all know, the money allotted for that scheme had been withdrawn and I would like to know the reason why. Secondly, at present, I see that £5,000 has been allocated for a housing scheme in Cape Coast. The poor condition of the people in Cape Coast especially the fisher folk is such that £5,000 would not be sufficient to provide buildings for a section of this community. I would like to suggest to the Minister to make thorough investigations in respect of the Cape Coast rural area, more especially of Moree. Moree has been able to produce us a Minister in this House but just visit the place and you will see its appalling condition—a fishing town and the whole place is a slum. The Government have neglected these our brothers. And this also has special reference to the Elmina people. Almost all of them are pensioners and you know the sad condition of these people; they have not been considered in the increment, as we were told yesterday or three days ago, and they ought to be provided with new buildings. Their living conditions are quite deplorable. I am appealing to the Minister to see to it that the housing scheme is extended to Elmina because these people are very hopeful to see that the Cape Coast Municipality is extended to Elmina.

If the Minister considers Cape Coast in terms of Elmina, he will find that in Cape Coast acquisition of land is very hard to carry out; in fact we have stretches of land in Elmina on which this building scheme could be implemented and when it comes to the question of selecting a site for the Schokbeton buildings, I know Elmina can provide stretches of land where water and pebbles and stones are available.

Mr. Chairman, we have Assessment Committees.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you going to be long?

MR. HAGAN: Just for two minutes. The Assessment Committee deals with housing problems in respect of rents, but the members of the Assessment Committee are not paid. They have been sitting constantly on cases. I would suggest that they should be given some pocket money for the beneficial work they are doing for the country. The members of the Assessment Committee must be given some money for the valuable work they are doing for the country.

MR. SUMANI BUKARI: The Minister in his introductory speech said that it was the intention of the Government to continue the experiment on the Dutch type of houses in the Colony and

[MR. SUMANI BUKARI]

Ashanti. According to the Minister's statement, these new houses will cost less than the previous ones. I wish to know from the Minister whether he does not consider erecting at least four of the Schokbeton houses in Tamale, and whether the Minister does not think that people in the North also wish to have this Dutch firm which is so popular with this Government in their memories?

When this Government were going to Holland in connection with the Dutch Schokbeton houses for the Gold Coast, the Northern Territories was represented and therefore I feel that the claim of the North for Schokbeton houses is justifiable. I would like the Minister to re-consider the claim of the North and try to do something about it. Even if the Minister has in view a special type of estate houses for the North we also will want some of the Dutch houses in Tamale.

NANA BOAKYE DANKWA: Mr. Chairman, I feel I must contribute my quota to the arguments which have so far been adduced in this House by some of the Honourable Members who have levelled criticisms about delays in this building programme of the Schokbeton Company. As a matter of fact, I know the delays are not apparently due to this Schokbeton people. As far as Kumasi is concerned, they were given land but what happened is that that land which was first given to them was a valley. These people objected to it. They raised very strong objection but they would not be given any attention by the Civil Servants until they appealed to the Asantehene who gave them the land just behind Suntresu where they have put up buildings to-day. So they were not responsible for the delays which have been caused in putting up the buildings.

Another difficulty which was placed in their way, I must confess, is this: the Minister of Commerce and Industry lived in a House for which the Government were paying a rent of £600 per annum. He vacated this House and just at the time these people arrived, this house had become vacant, and they approached the authorities that they should be given accommodation in this house but they did not pay any attention to them, and apart from that an advance of £300 had not been paid by the Government; and to-day as I am speaking the house is still vacant, and the advance has not been paid. So we should not attach much blame for the delay to these Schokbeton people.

As a matter of fact I accompanied the delegation to Holland.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Uproar! No wonder; that is why.

NANA BOAKYE DANKWA: That is a fact, but as you were just told by the Assistant Whip for the Government, it is a fact that I visited the Schokbeton houses myself; they have been nicely built and in fact I was surprised at the houses. Even the commonest labourers in that country occupy prefabricated houses; houses which cannot be occupied in this country by even prominent people, are being occupied there in Holland by labourers, and in fact those houses were beautifully built and I may say, Mr. Chairman, with all due deference that some of them are more beautiful than the houses we have in this country.

12.45 p.m.

Now I leave this aside and I will touch the question of Rent Control—(interruption).

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no time for you now.

NANA BOAKYE DANKWA: A few minutes Sir! a few minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time is up.

MR. A. R. BOAKYE: On a point of order, I want to raise one question Sir—(interruption).

NANA BOAKYE DANKWA: May I continue for only a few minutes, Sir?

What I want to say about this Rent Control is this. I would advise the Minister of Housing to amend that Ordinance, because a few months ago there was a case in the court and it appears that according to the Ordinance no proceedings of that are transmitted to the Magistrate upon which he can base his judgment, except an assessment case by the Assessment Committee, and if the Minister goes through the Ordinance he will find that in fact there is a loophole. Therefore I would ask him to make that amendment.

MR. BOAKYE: I have this case to make, only one point.

In the Minister's statement, paragraph (f) where he suggested greater use of African initiative—he said "greater reliance will be placed on African Contractors, who will be given appropriate assistance as far as proves possible". It has been suggested here, but I am feeling, Sir, that most of these African Contractors have no money and that when contracts are awarded them they find it highly difficult to get money to start with the business. I know there were some financial arrangements existing before the coming into power of this Government. I will suggest to the Minister, if it will be possible to review the financial arrangements so as to give to contractors that will undertake the contracts some financial assistance to start with the business. This is one of the reasons

[MR. BOAKYE]

why African Contractors cannot get on with their business, and some of the contracts that are to be awarded them, because they have not got money, are rather awarded to some Syrians and English firms. So if it is possible, I will suggest here to the Minister that the best thing for him to do is to review the financial arrangements.

In fact the statement that was read by the Minister is really decent; and if in fact we want houses there is one thing I would like to suggest. I know if we adopt the ordinary or normal method of awarding contracts to people, that is being advertised in the *Gazette*, and then to Tender Boards, next the preparation of all the agreements, it will take almost about four to six months. If you do not try to change some of these systems, while people are crying that houses should be built for them in the rural and urban areas, the statement that has been read to us to-day will only be a farce. (*Rest of speech not heard*).

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: I think the debate on this Housing Estimates has evoked a lot of comment, some very useful, some a lot of humour and some perhaps which call for deep thinking. But I am grateful to all Honourable Members of this House for the contributions which they have made because they have shown that the problem is one which affects each and everyone of us, and it is up to us, each of us to contribute his quota in solving this very outstanding problem.

To deal with what the Honourable Member said last I would say this. I realise that local contractors perhaps have not got sufficient capital. And I quite agree that if we have to implement the policy which I have already indicated, it will be necessary to make provision so that African local contractors may be given some assistance in the form of initial capital provided they have adequate security to the satisfaction of the Housing Department. (Hear! Hear!).

I would like to deal specifically with some of the points and perhaps I would group two or three together that have been brought out by several Honourable Members.

The Honourable Rural Member for Akpini-Asogli dealt with the absence of consideration for the Trans-Volta/Togoland Region. I can assure him that the Trans-Volta Region will not be neglected. It has been created into a special region now of its own, and we realise the concomitant expenditure which will be necessary to give it all the necessary amenities which we think are necessary for the area. (*Interruption*).

MR. AWUMA: We want to see action as early as possible.

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: Yes; but we hope that in a short time improvements will be made in the area to the satisfaction of the Honourable Member.

MR. AWUMA: Thank you.

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: The Municipal Member for Sekondi suggested whether we should have flats in some places. It is proposed to build a block of flats as part of the slum clearance policy scheme in Ussher Town in Accra; we are trying that pilot scheme in Accra, and if it is successful we will go to other places as well. And I am sure his constituency will not be forgotten.

MR. ATTAFUAH: And the rural areas.

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: The laying off of workmen: It is regrettable, and perhaps it is unfortunate, that when one scheme is finished we have got to lay off some men before we start another job because we cannot keep on paying them when the other scheme is not started. But we do take into account the fact that these men may need to be employed, and we will see that the Labour Department give them some temporary jobs pending such time that other schemes are taken up by the Ministry.

Then he mentioned also the use of local materials. The Housing Department uses local materials whenever it is possible and economical but it will be policy of this Government to use more and more local materials as and when they are available—*(Interruption)*.

MR. ABUBEKR: We want results of research.

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: It is estimated that no less than 20 million cubic feet of buildings of all kinds have been built in soil cement or swish-crete in this country up to the present time.

The Honourable the Second Territorial Member for the Northern Territories said the North was neglected. I can assure Honourable Members from the North that as has been said time and again by the Government, we do not intend to neglect the North at all.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Assurances!

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: The fact remains that these Schokbeton houses have got to be sold and when you have to add more transport charges on to the cost, it will prove uneconomical to take them to the North at this stage. We have in mind that if factories are established in this country, and the prices of the buildings become cheap then the North will not have occasion to complain at all (hear! hear!).

MR. ABUBEKR: A lawyer with a weak case !

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: Another criticism of this Honourable Member was to the effect that people from the North have not got the opportunity of staying in some of the estate houses. I believe my Honourable Friend is misled on that point. If he goes to the Zabon Zongo in Accra, and if he goes to Obuasi, he will find that not a few of people from the Northern Territories stay in these estate houses.

MR. ABUBEKR: What is the percentage ?

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: I cannot give you the percentage off-hand but they do stay there.

The Honourable Dr. Ansah Koi, the Second Territorial Member, Colony Eastern Akan Group, asked about Housing Loans Schemes. I am happy to announce that 10 Housing Loans Boards have been established, and we intend to establish others as early as we can find the necessary staff, and as soon as we find that the District Councils are in a position to take up the work.

He also mentioned about Scholarships for Housing Managers. There is one candidate for the post of Housing Manager who is now on scholarship in the United Kingdom. A course for a second candidate is being arranged to commence as soon as this other scholar is back.

Then the Honourable Member for Wenchi asked whether the Accra Rehousing Scheme was a hire-purchase scheme, the rents charged, and whether the estates in other towns were hire-purchase estates ? The Accra Rehousing Scheme is a hire-purchase scheme. The rents charged for the houses vary according to their size and the cost of construction. The subsidized housing estates in the other towns to which I referred in my address are not hire-purchase estates. The houses there are rented to tenants, the rents being subsidized from the general revenue.

He also asked what would be the cost of the Schokbeton houses if the building elements were made in a factory established in this country. This information is not available in exact details at the present moment, but it is anticipated that with the establishment of a factory here, the costs, such as freight, insurance and other transport charges will be eliminated, and it is very likely that the costs will be far lower than the present costs.

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: 58 per cent of the present cost !

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: Where is the Schokbeton report ?

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: The Honourable the Second Rural Member for Akim Abuakwa advocated local labour and materials for houses in order to strengthen the economy of the country. The Honourable Member is correct, and this is precisely what I am aiming at. The Schokbeton experiment is to ascertain whether a factory can be set up in the Gold Coast for the construction of houses with local cement, not imported cement.

Then the Honourable the First Rural Member for Akim Abuakwa pointed out that there was a great drawback, in that the Schokbeton Company could not send out their prefabricated elements to this country in their own ships. I would however, remind the Honourable Member that the Dutch shipping Company, Holland West African Lines, is a member of the West African Shipping Conference, and the Schokbeton firm could use this Dutch Shipping Line if they so wish, and in fact they have actually done so in some cases.

DR. DANQUAH: On a point of order. Is it not a fact that the freight rates from the United Kingdom and Europe to West Africa are higher than the freight rates from the United Kingdom to New York?

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: The Honourable Member may be correct. But I am not sure of the figures myself.

MR. ABUBEKR: On a point of order. If so why should the Minister state in the Memorandum to the Finance Committee that because the Dutch firms were made to use the Conference Lines the freights became higher than they should have been?

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: I am afraid, I cannot give you a full answer to that question. I shall go into that question later.

The Honourable the First Rural Member for Akim Abuakwa also stated that the cost of the 64 houses built by Schokbeton was £241,000. He stated that the cost of the 64 houses was £241,000. This is not correct. The cost of the 64 houses is £160,097—that is the cost. The balance of the money covered the cost of materials for the proposed 104 houses to be erected, which are already here; we have got the elements here, and it will be cheaper for us—*(interruption)*.

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: On a point of order. May I know what is the Minister doing with the elements? The people are here; are you paying them from the revenue of the Gold Coast? Are they going to continue or their business is being taken over by the Director of Housing. May I know from him?

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: The Dutch firm is not being paid whilst they are here now. The matter is under active consideration of the Government for a decision as to whether they should carry on with this project or not?

20th March, 1953

MR. OFORI ATTA: Is it a fact that your Ministry is not really concerned with Schokbeton? And secondly have the Government recognised the African Builders and Contractors Corporation, and the African Builders and Contractors Federation?

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: These are two separate questions.

In regard to Schokbeton, the survey team was asked to carry out a survey by the Ministry of Development and in due course their report which has just been handed in to Government and which is being studied by the Government will be placed on the table for your consideration.

As regards the recognition of these two local bodies that you have mentioned, the Government have given sympathetic consideration to their existence, and we have already said in our statement that all efforts will be made to give assistance to local contractors. (Hear! Hear!).

MR. OFORI ATTA: You have nothing to do with Schokbeton?

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: I have something to do with Schokbeton, because these houses are being erected under the supervision of the Ministry of Housing.

The question:

- (i) "That the sum of £161,050 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Housing Department shall stand part of the Schedule".
- (ii) "That the sum of £160,000 provided in the Third Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Housing Department shall stand part of the Schedule".
- (iii) "That the sum of £535,000 provided in the Fourth Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Housing Department shall stand part of the Schedule".

was put, and agreed to.

House resumed.

The House was adjourned at five minutes past one o'clock to Monday the 23rd of March, 1953, at 9 o'clock.

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

MONDAY, 23RD MARCH, 1953

The House resumed at 9 a.m.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair).

PRAYERS

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Friday the 20th March, 1953, were confirmed.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING

Roads and Houses in the Residential Area North of Farrar Avenue

71. DR. J. B. DANQUAH asked the Minister of Local Government and Housing how many houses are there in the area of land between Farrar Avenue, Nsawam Road, Ring Road West, and the Asylum, and how many miles of road have the Government or the Accra Town Council made for the residents of the houses in that area containing substantial houses occupied mostly by Africans?

MINISTERIAL SECRETARY TO THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (MR. F. Y. ASARE): The number of houses in the area is 287. The area is bounded by roads with a bituminous surface of about 3.6 miles in length, which have been built by the Government. There is no record of any road works having been carried out by the Public Works Department within this area. The Accra Town Council has constructed no roads in the area.

72. DR. DANQUAH: From what funds were the roads in the new Cantonments area from Cantonments Road including the Ministers abandoned houses to the round-about at the Cantonments Police Station up to but excluding the Giffard Camp made, and why have not similar funds been made available for the area north of Farrar Avenue?

MR. ASARE: The roads concerned lie outside the urban area of the Accra Town Council and were built by the Public Works Department with Government funds. The cost is recovered by levying a development charge on each site having a frontage on the road. Government does not levy development charges on its own

property, but any commercial firm or private individual who may be permitted to build in a Government residential area pays the full development charge. The area north of Farrar Avenue is the responsibility of the Accra Town Council, and the Town Engineer's Department had at one time included provision in its Estimates for the construction of roads there. But this was later deleted because the Council could not get the reputed owners to agree to free acquisition of the land required for the roads.

73. DR. DANQUAH: Will Government consider the advisability of making the African residential area in Ring Road West and Farrar Avenue as well provided with roads as in the new Cantonments residential area?

MR. ASARE: Ring Road West and Farrar Avenue are the responsibility of the Accra Town Council. The Council is desirous of making up these roads but is experiencing some difficulty in the acquisition of land required for the purpose, mainly due to the unwillingness of the reputed land-owners to agree to free acquisition.

DR. DANQUAH: Is it the policy of this Government to construct town roads only where they get the land free for roads?

MR. ASARE. No.

DR. DANQUAH: Why are you then not carrying on the construction?

MR. ASARE: In this particular instance it has been difficult for the reputed owners to give their land for development works on roads.

DR. ANSAH KOI: May I know from the Minister whether these development charges apply to the Cantonments area also?

MR. ASARE: Yes, it is in the answer.

Housing Loans Scheme—Trans-Volta/Togoland Region

MR. G. O. AWUMA: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of Mr. Donko may I be permitted to put Question No. 148?

MR. SPEAKER: Unless the Minister is willing to answer, you cannot put the question for another Member; is the Minister prepared to answer?

MR. ASARE: Yes, Sir.

Mr. S. H. Donko

TO ASK THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING:

148. How many people from the Trans-Volta/Togoland Region have received help under the Housing Loans Scheme? If none, why?

MR. ASARE: None. No Housing Loans Boards have yet been constituted in the Trans-Volta/Togoland Region. In its initial stages the Housing Loans Scheme is being introduced, apart

from the municipalities, on a District Council grouping basis, so that the limited amount for loans in the first year can be most equitably distributed. Only one District Council has as yet been constituted in the Region concerned. Owing to unrest in the area of that District Council it has not been practicable to set up a Loans Board in the area.

MR. KUSI: How do you expect this part of the country to benefit from the local Housing Loans Board ?

MR. ASARE: When the District Council is formed and there is positive evidence that it will function to the advantage of the people, and there is peace in the area, they can have their Housing Loans Board.

MR. KUSI: How do you assume that the District Council will not work to the benefit of the people ?

MR. ASARE: It is not an assumption, it is a practical case we are dealing with.

MR. QUASHIE: Will the Minister allocate sufficient money from these funds for the Trans-Volta/Togoland Area until the District Councils are formed in that area ?

MR. ASARE: Yes, Sir, funds have already been allocated to each district council.

Housing Loans Board—Tamale

258. MR. J. B. HARRUNA asked the Minister of Local Government and Housing whether he is aware that a Housing Loans Board has not been set up in Tamale up to now ; if so, when will one be set up ?

MR. ASARE: May I refer the Honourable Member to the answer given to Question O/269, in which I announced the establishment of a Housing Loans Board in Tamale.

MR. HARRUNA: When was that answer given ?

MR. ASARE: If the Honourable Member will refer to Question No. 269 he will see the date given there. It is about three weeks now.

9.15 a.m.

Resignation of Agogo Local Councillors

284. MR. B. F. KUSI asked the Minister of Local Government and Housing what causes led to the wholesale resignation of Agogo Local Councillors ?

MR. ASARE: It is not correct to say that the members of the Agogo Local Council have resigned. The position is that a resolution to this effect was made, but that in law this resolution did not constitute a valid act of resignation. The question as asked,

therefore, does not arise. I might add, however, that this resolution of resignation followed a direction issued by me that the rates which the Council had imposed, which totalled £5 per male and £3 per female, should be reduced to £3 and £1 10s. respectively.

MR. KUSI: Is it not a fact that although there has been no resignation, there has been a *de facto* resignation by members of the Council?

MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING (MR. E. O. ASAFU-ADJAYE): There has been no resignation according to law.

MR. KUSI: I mean *de facto* resignation.

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: I am not aware of any *de facto* resignation.

DR. ANSAH KOI: Will it not be advantageous to the cause of democracy for the Minister to contact the Councillors personally with a view to persuading them to his point of view whenever they go wrong?

DR. J. B. DANQUAH: Can the Minister enlighten us, namely, under the Ordinance, if a member writes to resign, his resignation is effective. But in this case they have passed a resolution, and having passed the resolution, how does the Minister say, that the resignation is not in law correct?

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: According to the Local Government Ordinance, anyone who wishes to resign has to address a letter for that specific purpose to the Chairman and that particular formality was not complied with and in the opinion of the Law Officers of the Government, the resignation is ineffective.

MR. OFORI ATTA: How can the Chairman write his resignation to the Chairman?

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: By writing to himself.

State Councils' share of Land Revenue

The following question stood on the Order Paper for putting by Nana Kwame Gyebi Ababio, who was absent:—

Nana Kwame Gyebi Ababio

TO ASK THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING:

342. Will the Minister consider reviewing the system of paying to the State Councils their share of Land Revenue as a result of the inconveniences being experienced by the State Councils?

THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING

To Nana Kwame Gyebi Ababio

I am aware that some advantage might be gained if the payment of revenues accruing from Stool lands was decentralised by the Accountant-General to local Treasury Officers, and I am considering this suggestion in consultation with the Accountant-General. I have heard no other criticisms of the existing system, but I am prepared to receive suggestions for its detailed improvement.

Krachi Local Council,

390. MR. J. KODZO asked the Minister of Local Government and Housing whether in view of the fact that the Krachi Local Council is at present faced with unavoidable commitments owing to definite efforts being made to open more schools he will consider allowing the Council to repeat the ten per cent contribution towards Teacher's salaries for the financial year 1953-54?

MR. ASARE: I am replying to this question, which was originally addressed to my colleague, the Minister of Education and Social Welfare, since it relates to the financial circumstances of a particular Local Council. I would, however, be reluctant to commit myself to any definite course of action in this matter until I have seen the draft Estimates of the Council concerned for the coming financial year. If necessary, I would thereafter be prepared to consider whether it would be appropriate for the present relief to continue.

MR. KODZO: Has the Minister any definite date or time for Local Council Estimates to reach his office?

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: No, but within as reasonable a time as possible.

MR. QUASHIE: Has the Minister not received any Estimates for last year? Because before the rates are levied they are to receive his approval, but it appears he has not received the Estimates for last year.

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: I am not aware of the facts whether it has been received or not but I take it that my representative in the region must have received it.

MR. KUSI: How far are the Ministers informed in their respective Ministries of the heavy commitments of the Local Councils in the discharge of their functions?

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: When representations are received from the Local Councils we forward them to their appropriate Ministries for their information.

Transfer of Power to District Councils to undertake Capital Works

396. MR. A. R. BOAKYE asked the Minister of Local Government and Housing how soon would "Powers" be transferred to the various District Councils established by Instrument to undertake capital works that come within their district?

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: I regret that I am not in a position to provide any definite information upon this subject. I can say, however, that the whole question of the conferment of functions upon District Councils is under consideration at the present time. This question, I should add, apart from the inherent difficulty of deciding what functions are appropriate, introduces many financial complications—the whole issue of precepts, grants-in-aid, etc., is involved. It may well be that in view of the uncertain financial position of lower councils some considerable time must perforce elapse before effective District Councils can be established.

MR. BOAKYE: How many Local Councils have not been able to pay in their rates to the various District Councils under which they come?

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: I shall require notice of that.

MR. BOAKYE: Is the Minister aware that in some of the districts, the Government Agents who are automatically the Chairmen of the District Development Committees take it upon themselves without the knowledge of the Committees themselves and write to the Cocoa Marketing Board telling them that amounts earmarked for the purposes of social services in the cocoa growing areas cannot be used or controlled and that they should be reduced?

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: They write as Chairmen of the various District Development Committees and they have the right to do so.

MR. BOAKYE: How then can we develop our districts? In fact, we need money to develop our districts and if moneys are issued by the Cocoa Marketing Board for the purpose of developing the areas and the Chairmen write to the Cocoa Marketing Board that the money cannot be used, how can we develop our districts?

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: The Chairman will write with the knowledge of the Development Committee.

MR. BOAKYE: Will the Minister be surprised to hear that I have been to the Cocoa Marketing Board myself to enquire and that I have learnt that they write without the knowledge of the Development Committees?

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: I will be surprised.

Swedish Timber Houses

402. DR. ANSAH KOI asked the Minister of Local Government and Housing what is the cause of the delay of the erection of the timber houses, since they were ordered before the Schokbeton prefabricated houses?

MR. ASARE: The Honourable Member is misinformed. The contract for Schokbeton prefabricated houses was signed on the 8th February, 1952, whereas the Crown Agents for the Colonies did

not place an order for the Swedish prefabricated timber houses until the following June. The position on the 31st January was that 53 Swedish timber houses were in course of erection. All the parts required for building the 62 timber houses which were ordered have now been landed in this country.

MR. KUSI: Will the Minister explain the reasons why we have timber in the Gold Coast and they did not make experiments with local timber in building houses but are wasting the country's money in importing timber from foreign countries to build houses?

MR. ASARE: The use of foreign timber in experiment does not exclude the possibility of using local timber.

MR. KUSI: Does it not help to throw the country's money away outside this country?

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: It does not help to throw money away from this country.

Slum Clearance in Accra

403. DR. ANSAH KOI: What steps are the Government taking to clear the slums in Accra and to make it a really first class city compatible with its position as the capital of the Gold Coast?

MR. ASARE: The Government have taken the first step towards the improvement of Accra by having a survey of the slum area of Ussher Town carried out by a Working Party. The Report of the Working Party is under active consideration in my Ministry; it recommends the clearance of 75 acres of slum and the rehousing of 17,000 people at a cost £2½ million over a period of years. Other plans, including street widening, traffic roundabouts and a civic centre are also under consideration.

DR. ANSAH KOI: In order to help pedestrians in the busiest streets in Accra, say Boundary Road and Station Road, will the Government consider the construction of underground crossing roads?

MR. ASARE: That does not arise out of the question of slum clearance.

DR. ANSAH KOI: In your answer you made mention of street widening and so forth and traffic roundabouts to help the traffic, and I am asking whether it will not be advisable also to construct underground passages for pedestrians in these busiest roads?

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: The Honourable Member's suggestion will be considered.

Alienation of Lands

405. DR. ANSAH KOI: Considering that almost all Labadi lands have been alienated or acquired by foreigners and by Government, will the Government give an assurance that they will prevent further dispossession of lands and initiate an Ordinance for non-alienation of lands to foreigners?

MR. ASARE: On the evidence available to me, I do not accept the assertion made by the Honourable Member in introducing this question, although it is true that considerable areas of La Stool land have been acquired for public purposes, such as the building of the University College. For this reason, no further land will be acquired by the Government from the La Stool without very careful consideration. In respect of Stool lands generally, I would like to refer the Honourable Member's attention to the provisions of section 75 of the Local Government Ordinance and to the similar provisions embodied in the Municipal Councils Ordinance. These provisions import safeguards against the irresponsible alienation of Stool lands and it is the view of Government that the efficacy of these safeguards should first be tested over a period of time before consideration is given to the desirability of further legislation, restricting the alienation of land to foreigners.

DR. ANSAH KOI: What has happened to the Labadi lands recovered from Captan? Have they been given back to the owners?

MR. ASARE: I require notice.

DR. ANSAH KOI: I would like to know from the Minister whether he will give assurance that he will consider acquiring some of these Labadi lands from the present owners and giving them back to the original owners who are the natives of Labadi, considering that some of these lands bought by foreigners in years gone by have been lying idle?

MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE: Are you suggesting that Government should acquire these lands and make a free gift of them to the original owners?

DR. ANSAH KOI: Some compensation should be given to the present owners.

Survey Department

406. DR. ANSAH KOI: Are the Government aware of the presence of marked dissatisfaction among the Surveyors and the Junior Civil Servants in the Survey Department? If so, will Government take early steps to eradicate the grievances?

MR. ASARE: Government are aware that some Junior members of the Survey Department have expressed dissatisfaction with certain conditions of service and the Minister has personally heard their grievances as expressed at a meeting he had at the Survey Department with the Director and representatives of the employees on 29th November, 1952. After a full hearing, an undertaking was given that further consideration would be given to the issues raised with a view to removing possible causes of discontent. The chief complaint was in relation to the salary gradings of Surveyors and Draughtsmen under the Lidbury-Gbedemah salary revision. An enquiry is being undertaken with a view to examining the position.

MR. KUSI: Since the Minister met the Junior Survey Officers and gave them a promise, has he made any effort to remove their grievances?

MR. ASARE: Efforts have been made and you have been told in the answer here as to what is being done.

DR. ANSAH KOI: What steps are the Government taking to Africanise the Survey Department at the top level?

MR. ASARE: This does not arise out of this question.

MR. BEDIAKO POKU: Mr. Speaker, under section 21, I would like to put an urgent question to the Minister of Commerce and Industry if you will allow it.

MR. SPEAKER: You should have sent the question to me first; you cannot simply get up and put it.

MR. BEDIAKO POKU: It is urgent, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: I must decide whether it is urgent or not.

MR. BEDIAKO POKU: It comes under Urgency—Section 21 of the Standing Orders.

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow it without first seeing the question.

STATEMENT ON MINES DEPARTMENT STAFF

9.30 a.m.

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (MR. K. A. GBEDEMAH): In answering a point made by the First Rural Member for Akim Abuakwa in the debate on the Mines Department Estimates in this House on the 16th March, I indicated that the re-creation of the post of Deputy Chief Inspector of Mines would only involve the additional expenditure arising from the difference between the salary of the post (i.e. £1,875) and that of the Senior Inspector of Mines (maximum £1,500) because there would be a reduction of one Senior Inspector post.

This is a misstatement which I now wish to correct. The position is that there are three Senior Inspector posts—one of Machinery and two of Mines. The former post is required in connection with the responsible work of examining and assessing the condition of all types of plant and machinery used in the Mining Industry. Two posts of Senior Inspector of Mines are required so that one officer can be stationed at Kumasi and the other at Tarkwa.

The retention of all three highly technical posts of Senior Inspector is justified and it is not therefore proposed to reduce their number to offset partially the re-creation of the post of Deputy Chief Inspector of Mines.

MR. OFORI ATTA: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry apologise to the First Rural Member for Akim Abuakwa for saying that he was confusing the issues when he made that statement.

MR. GBEDEMAH: I do apologise.

STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT POLICY ON CROWN LANDS

DR. DANQUAH: I am grateful to the Minister of Commerce and Industry, and I congratulate him on his parliamentary integrity. I also would like to ask leave of the House to make a short statement.

On behalf of the Opposition I crave the indulgence of the House to make the following statement on the subject of Government's new policy on Crown lands read to the House by the Minister of Local Government and Housing on March 12th, 1953.

The Minister made it clear in the course of his statement that Government did not intend to be guided by the policy embodied in the Resolution unanimously passed by this Assembly in September, 1951. The Minister stated that "in no circumstances" will Government re-open any land transactions with a view to re-examining the amount of compensation paid, nor will Government consider handing over revenues derived from land where that land had been acquired from its owners by compulsion of law and compensation paid.

In addition to the reversal of the policy approved by this Assembly the Minister revealed Government's intention to introduce new legislation in the course of this present meeting to implement an entirely strange policy of Government acquiring lands for and in the name of the Crown but not for a public purpose or the public service but to assist any "professional, commercial or industrial undertaking which is considered by Government to be making, or is likely to make, a contribution of national importance to the development of the Gold Coast".

Reference was also made by the Minister to Government's obligations contained in the Colonial Secretary's Circular No. 43/47 dated 1st May, 1947, and the Minister declared that the Circular is now revoked.

In the view of the Opposition, the Minister's statement raises several new issues which are in conflict with the natural sentiments of the people with regard to their land.

In our view, it will not be in the public interest for a Bill of this far-reaching nature to be introduced without the general public being given ample opportunity to consider its several implications.

We suggest for the consideration of Government that the terms of the new policy, as adumbrated in the Minister's statement, together with other papers connected therewith, in particular, the terms of the Resolution passed by this Assembly in September, 1951, and also the Circular issued by the former Government and now revoked by the present Government, should be published in the form of a White Paper available for sale and distribution to the general public.

Our view is that this publicity should be given so that when eventually Government introduces a Bill on the subject, Members of this Assembly, as well as the Press and the general public, should not be reproached for criticising the Bill in ignorance of the facts. The general public should be given opportunity to study the facts so as to view the subject with a full knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of its far-reaching implications.

We earnestly urge the Government to publish such a White Paper.

PAPERS LAID

THE MINISTERIAL SECRETARY TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MR. J. K. DONKOH) laid the following on the Table in the name of the Minister of Health:—

Statutory Powers and Duties (Transfer to Ministers) Order, 1953, made on the 27th November, 1952, by the Governor under the Statutory Powers and Duties (Transfer to Ministers) Ordinance, 1951.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

THE MINISTERIAL SECRETARY TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MR. J. K. DONKOH) gave notice of the following motion on behalf of his Minister:—

“That the Statutory Powers and Duties (Transfer to Ministers) Order, 1953, made on the 27th November, 1952, by the Governor under the Statutory Powers and Duties (Transfer to Ministers) Ordinance, 1951, be approved”.

THE MINISTERIAL SECRETARY TO THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (MR. OHENE-DJAN) gave notice of the following motions on behalf of his Minister:—

- (1) “That this Assembly, acting under section 12 of the Customs Ordinance, No. 40 of 1947, confirm by Resolution the Order made under section 11 of the Ordinance by the Governor in Council on the 9th day of March, 1953, and entitled the Customs (Exemption from Import Duties) Order 1953”.
- (2) “Be it resolved that this House approves that annual grants-in-aid may be paid to the University College of the Gold Coast for the period of five years from the 1st August, 1953, to 31st July, 1958, to assist in meeting the recurrent expenditure of the University College as follows:—

For the year commencing 1st August, 1953—£519,000
 For the year commencing 1st August, 1954—£579,000
 For the year commencing 1st August, 1955—£622,500
 For the year commencing 1st August, 1956—£652,000
 For the year commencing 1st August, 1957—£676,500”.

THE MINISTERIAL SECRETARY TO THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE (MR. KROBO EDUSEI) gave notice of the following motion on behalf of his Minister:—

“That the Order made by the Governor in Council under the provisions of section 2 of the Statutory Powers and Duties (Transfer to Ministers) Ordinance, 1951, and a copy of which is annexed hereto be approved”.

The House at this stage resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

HOUSE IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Chief Secretary's Office and M.D.E.A.

MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR DEFENCE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (MR. E. NORTON-JONES): I beg to move “that the sum of £189,800 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Chief Secretary's Office and Ministry of Defence and External Affairs shall stand part of the Schedule”.

Honourable Members will have observed that this head has now been divided into two parts: one for the Ministry of Defence and External Affairs and the other for the Chief Secretary's Office. This arrangement will enable Honourable Members to appreciate the provision necessary for each of these branches of the Government. I would like first of all to explain the reason for the very great increase in the Estimates for 1953-54 over those of the current financial year. From £95,100 to £189,800 is an increase of approximately £95,000. This can be accounted for firstly by items totalling approximately £27,000 which have been transferred to this head from Head 12, Miscellaneous in the 1952-53 Estimates and to this extent there will be a corresponding saving. The individual items appear in brackets in the Estimates and the principal sums which make up this total of £27,000 are £4,000 for expenses of official visits by Members of this Assembly outside the Gold Coast; £10,000 for a grant to the Joint Council for Togoland Affairs; £3,000 to advertise vacancies in the Government Service and nearly £8,000 for courses of instruction in the United Kingdom and elsewhere. Secondly my Ministry has been made responsible for services which are common to all those Ministries accommodated in the new two-storey Ministerial buildings. I refer to such items as telephone, telegram and electricity charges. The cost of these services accounts for approximately £12,000 of the increase. Thirdly there is a branch under the title of Recruitment and Training. This branch is supervised by a Director and its cost amounts to approximately £10,000, a sum which will increase as this important activity of the Public Service expands. Fourthly, there are the new items under the branch entitled Government Shorthand and Typing Training

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Schools at a cost of nearly £10,000. Fifthly, there is an item of £2,000 being payment by Government to the West African Examinations Council for examinations of Civil Servants which are conducted by the Council on behalf of the Government; and sixthly, the balance of the increase is consequent upon the rise in salaries due to the Lidbury/Gbedemah awards and to certain increases in allowances. I will deal first with a few of the non-Departmental activities of the Ministry.

First, Elections: My Ministry is responsible for maintaining and operating the machinery for the conduct of elections to this Assembly. Additions to the Electoral Register of newly qualified voters have just been effected and action is being taken to hold by-elections in the Ga-Adangbe Rural and the Kumasi East Constituencies. The experience gained by my Ministry indicates certain weakness in the existing electoral system and I have caused a report to be prepared, and have submitted it to the Prime Minister. The recommendations in that report will be of value and assistance to any Committee which may be set up to re-examine the subject of electoral reform.

Secondly, the West African Inter Territorial Conference and Secretariat, provision for which is made in my Estimates. At a meeting which was held during the current financial year the Gold Coast was represented by two Ministers, the Minister of Education and Social Welfare and the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The purpose of this Conference of the British West African Representatives is principally to discuss subjects of common interest to the four West African Territories, in the sphere of scientific research; but the discussions at the meeting indicate that members may wish to extend the range of the activities of the Conference. Thirdly, the United Nations Organisation; and I make particular reference to our responsibilities for the Trusteeship Territory of Togoland. Honourable Members will be aware that a Mission of the United Nations Organisation under the Chairmanship of Mr. Peachey, an Australian, visited the Gold Coast in 1952 and made an extensive tour of Togoland. We understand that they will make two reports to the United Nations Organisation, one on the general subject of progress in the Trust Territory and the other on the particular subject of what has come to be termed the "Unification problem". The General Report has not been received but the Special Report has been submitted to the Trusteeship Council and to the General Assembly, and has been thoroughly discussed in both Chambers. The General Assembly recognised that there was a demand in the Southern Section of Togoland for the unification of the Ewe peoples, but that the views expressed in Togoland to give effect to unification were so various that the General Assembly found itself unable at this stage to say by what means unification could be accomplished. We have been advised to do our utmost to re-establish the Joint Council

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for Togoland affairs and to persuade the people of Togoland to cooperate in its re-establishment so that a forum can be provided for the discussion of the common problems of the two Trusteeship Territories of Togoland. I say to "re-establish" the Council for, as Members will be aware, there was one short but unsuccessful meeting of the Council last year. As a result of the failure of the members of this Council to collaborate the sum of £10,000 voted in the current year for Special Development work to be carried out on the initiative of that Council has not been spent, and I am asking for a similar sum to be provided in the Estimates for 1953-54, in the hope that the Council may be able to resolve its differences and to work for the benefit and in the interest of Togoland.

Fourthly, the Coronation: My Ministry is responsible for the arrangements to celebrate in the Gold Coast the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Gold Coast will be represented at the Coronation in London by two Ministers, my colleagues the Minister of Local Government and Housing and the Minister of Labour, and by two other Members of this Assembly, Mr. Awuma and Mr. Dombo. Many other Gold Coast people will be visiting England, some with the specific intention to see the ceremony and to attend functions which will be held in celebration of the Coronation. My staff keeps in close contact with the Colonial Office and with the Gold Coast Commissioner in London in order to assist the Gold Coast people in finding accommodation and in obtaining seats in the stand from which the Coronation procession can be witnessed.

I now turn to the Second Part of the Head—a part which relates to the Chief Secretary's Office. In this part there are three branches: Personnel and Establishment, Recruitment and Training, and the new Government Shorthand and Typing Training Schools. As to the first, little is required to be said but I think Members will be interested and may be disturbed to learn the general position regarding the staffing of the senior section of the Civil Service. There are 2,814 posts in this section; of these 1,350 are held by overseas officers, 694 by Gold Coast officers and there are 770 vacancies. Those vacancies bring me to the second branch of the Chief Secretary's Office.

The functions of the Recruitment and Training Branch may be briefly described as the organisation and the supervision of the training of local candidates to fill positions of responsibility in the Gold Coast Civil Service, and the determination of the means to make the best possible use of the available man-power. The Director of that Branch and two Senior Officers of the Administrative Service, one of whom is an African Officer in my Ministry, have been constituted a working party to provide material for the consideration of a Standing Committee on Africanisation. The

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composition of that Standing Committee is important and I would like to inform Honourable Members of the composition of the Committee:—

Mr. Kwesi Plange, *Chairman*

Mr. J. B. Erzuah, *Vice-Chairman*

Mr. E. K. Dadson

Mr. W. E. Ofori Atta

Mr. G. O. Awuma

Mr. J. E. Jantuah

Mr. A. A. Y. Kyerematen

Mr. Mark Botsio

Yakubu Tali—Tolon-Na

The Principal, University College of the Gold Coast

The Principal, Kumasi College of Technology.

It will be noted that seven of these members are also Members of the Assembly and it is hoped that the Committee and the Working Party will give close and speedy attention to this important matter which is vexing the minds of all Honourable Members of this House.

The third branch is the Government Shorthand and Typing Training Schools. These schools will be set up in three main centres of the Gold Coast and provision is made for Six Temporary Instructors to be held against the post of Instructor while the future permanent officers are undergoing a course of instruction in the United Kingdom. Before I close I wish to make mention of one matter.

Honourable Members will be aware of the tremendous task which has been undertaken during the course of the present year in the reorganisation of the structure of the Civil Service, and of the close attention which has been paid to implementing the proposals of a Select Committee to remove anomalies which became apparent in the course of the salaries adjustment. Other anomalies may come to light. If they do, they will receive the sympathetic consideration of my office. I would like to pay a tribute to all the officers who gave devoted and unrewarded overtime to the accomplishment of this tremendous task of reorganisation. In paying this special tribute to these officers I am not overlooking the diligence, the patience and the hardwork of other officers of the Public Service who have been compelled to carry out added burdens by reason of the shortage of trained and experienced members of the Civil Service. I gladly pay them a tribute for their loyal and conscientious service.

Motion made, and question proposed.

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: Mr. Chairman, I think I will join the Minister of Defence and External Affairs in congratulating the Members of the Civil Service for the great work they have done for this country during the past year. In that connection I would also like to congratulate the Minister himself because he is responsible for that achievement. But though I congratulate them I feel earnestly that there are one or two things which have gone badly in the Ministry and must be corrected. As a rule the Civil Servants are civil and many of the expatriates behave very nicely and admirably. We are not expected to mention names, but we know some of them—the Commissioner of Police, the Deputy Director of Posts and Telecommunications. Well, we know for instance—we are not to talk about people in this House—that the Minister of Finance is a perfect gentleman.

But there are one or two cases which are definitely too bad and it seems to me that some expatriates are still in that old groove which brought friction between the expatriates and us. Some of them are quite nice when they meet a Member of the Assembly ; but when they meet the ordinary person of the community, they are rude. Now that is definitely bad and it brings discredit. As a matter of fact, last Saturday I went to the Electricity Department to talk about my bill, and what happened? I tried to see Mr. Sackey, the Chief or the Acting Chief Electrical Engineer, and as I was nearing the place I saw an expatriate standing with another expatriate. I had then gone into his office I was not dressed as a bourgeois, but as an ordinary man. When I went near this gentleman and asked him, "Please, would you show me where I can get Mr. Sackey?" he said "Clear out! clear out! I am on my conversation". Well, I just stepped out and stood there about a yard and a half. Then he continued "You cannot interrupt us, you cannot interrupt us ; get out! get out!". Then I told this man: "This is very stupid and silly and it is very bad manners! You behave in a very rude way". As a matter of fact, I had to keep my temper, otherwise I would have given him a dirty slap. (*Laughter*). However, I went to the Engineer and reported the matter to him and he was called in. When he came in I put my case and he was denying it. But what happened? In the presence of his senior officer he said "it is just that" and he was getting up to go. I told the Engineer: "Even in your presence look at how he is behaving. I feel that this man is a negrophobist, and I feel that this man has no respect". When the senior officer asked him to apologise it was with difficulty that he did that. He wanted to say that I was in the wrong before he apologised. But I insisted that he was wrong and that I was perfectly right because he was expected to serve the public; whether one is an Assemblyman or not he is expected to serve him. (*Hear, hear*). However, he apologised; because of that I would not mention his name at all. But I want the Minister to realise that there is still some little friction between some of the expatriates and the Africans. After

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all, we pay them for being here and we expect them to go along with us as friends and brothers. Even though we are not of the same race and colour, we can work together; and it is up to them to see that something is done.

I now come to the old old story—some cases that I feel have been unjustly settled. There is a case of one Mr. J. Lartey. This man was an Engineer, and he is alleged to have signed a voucher without actually knowing that he was right or wrong. Later on, he was interdicted and given half pay. When the matter was sent to Court, he was acquitted; but still he was not getting his pay. However, he put in his resignation. Instead of allowing him to go his way the matter, I understand, has been re-opened and they want to bring strict disciplinary measures against him to say that he was negligent of duty and therefore he must be dismissed from the Service. I hope this is not true, and that the Minister will go into it. But there are cases in point and these cases refer to expatriates, and no very serious action has been taken against them. For instance, there is one officer, a Mr. Dickson, who was an Accountant in Public Works Department. He at least admitted that he had been signing vouchers wrongly; but this man was not found negligent. What happened afterwards? He has been made Assistant Chief Accountant. There is a District Engineer in Winneba. There was a similar case, and he signed some certificates wrongly. But he was not charged; no disciplinary action was taken against him and he is still an Engineer in the Public Works Department. There is a Mr. Spooner who was an Assistant Chief Commissioner, Ashanti. He signed vouchers for giving Government grants-in-aid to Native Authorities in Ashanti wrongly; ten days afterwards it was found that his clerk had prepared a report and he had signed that also. As a result a large sum of money was lost. The clerk was taken to Court and I think he was imprisoned. But Mr. Spooner went on leave; no disciplinary action was taken against him; and I understand he has retired. Now, if so, why be so serious and unjust against Mr. Lartey. If the man wants to go away from the department and he is qualified, give him his pension; but instead of giving him his pension you are re-opening the case and unnecessarily taking disciplinary action against him, and, I hope I am wrong, they want to dismiss him on disciplinary grounds.

Then there is this case of the Inspector of Police Tandoh which has been mentioned here; but I want to mention it again. I have gone into the case. I found that it had not happened at the time when the Commissioner of Police himself was there. And I think it was a Mr. Pugh, the Commissioner of Police, who dealt with the case. I have got all the documents here and I can lay them on the table and Members can go through and see all the evidence of the second witness, the fourth witness and so on; the evidence tendered

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by his Counsel and everything is there. There was a definite doubt, and you know that British justice demands that there shall be no shadow of doubt, no probable possible shadow of doubt, whatsoever and yet this man has been dismissed. But this man has worked in the department for over 20 years; I think he has been in the Service for about 29 years.

Then there is another case and but I am appealing particularly to the present Government, because they have nothing to do with it. They did not deal with the case, but I do not think the present Minister of Defence dealt with it. This is the case of Mr. P. D. Mensah who used to be a member of the Post Office, in the Chief Accountant's Office. This man, consequent upon delay of attention to Philatelist applications between the period of 1st May, 1938 and 27th January, 1939 when the Postmaster-General's Office in which he was then acting underwent no less than two reorganisations, charges were preferred against this officer under Colonial Regulations No. 68 for breach of duty and negligence. Go through the case, and you will find that the department of the Government did not lose any money at all. This compared with the cases I have cited with reference to the expatriates, and you will find how unjust the then Government were to this man, and this man had to lose his pension with gratuity and everything. And it will interest you to know that this man in fact went into the Post Office when I was even not born. He has worked in the place for about 30 years and he was dismissed. I appeal to the Government very seriously to go into these matters, otherwise we do not know what we are doing. We have to be fair to these people because the Civil Servant is a civil man and he is an obedient person and he cannot come to this Assembly to put forth his case. Whether he is an expatriate or an African, he cannot and in fact as far as I am concerned, if I find that an injustice is being done to an expatriate I will come here and speak and speak and speak on his behalf because justice must be done. Therefore I appeal to the Government, especially this enlightened Government, to go into these cases and see that something is done for them.

10.15 a.m.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I am not going to say much because I have felt these things very much, because of that I do not want to touch any other topic but I would say that the Minister of Defence and External Affairs has to be congratulated for the work he has been doing. There are certain things going on without his knowledge. But he must realise that ultimately he is responsible because even when things are done wrongly by the Public Service Commission they reflect on him because most of the files pass out from his Ministry to the Public Service Commission.

MR. J. K. A. QUASHIE: I am happy that we are touching the Civil Service again under this Ministry. I have but a very few points to raise. The first one is that last week the Ministerial Secretary to the Ministry of Finance read a note in this House and that note he read is causing a lot of trouble in this country, particularly in the Customs Department. As a result the Comptroller of Customs is leaving this very moment for Takoradi because there is a big trouble there. The minutes read were unconfirmed and the committee's approval had not been sought by the Minister before the minutes were read.

As I am speaking, the Secretary who wrote the minutes is suffering at the hands of the members of that department. I am prepared to lay on the table the unconfirmed minutes tomorrow morning for you to read and find for yourself exactly what took place the other day. The portion of the minutes which favoured the Government was read to the House, but the greater portion which did not favour the Government was not read at all.

MR. OHEHE-DJAN: On a point of order. On that day I made it abundantly clear that I was just reading the relevant portion; I did not say I was reading the whole of the minutes.

MR. QUASHIE: I am not incriminating the Ministerial Secretary for the fact that he read it. He read it because he was asked to.

MR. OHENE-DJAN: I object to that. I did read it because I was to answer a question raised in this Assembly and I found that particular document very useful.

MR. QUASHIE: Mr. Chairman, he read it knowing full well that he was reading what was wrong, unconfirmed minutes.

MR. OHENE-DJAN: Thank you.

MR. QUASHIE: Mr. Chairman, I am going to drop that. It is for the Ministerial Secretary to take this very seriously because there is trouble going on now at Takoradi. They are to hold a meeting tomorrow morning but because of this trouble the people are now trying to go on strike because they are not agreeable to what was read in this House last week. These were unconfirmed minutes of a private Whitley Council meeting and they should not have been read here at all. Even we have here a telegram from the Customs Union in Takoradi.

MR. OHENE-DJAN: We are not discussing the Customs Department this morning.

MR. ARTHUR: Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I would like to read a telegram that has been received from the Customs Union at Takoradi.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Wait when it comes to your turn.

MR. QUASHIE: I have to leave this. I am not discussing the Customs Department but the Civil Servants in the Customs Department. Another point is, some of us have heard that there is going to be a West African Land Forces Conference which is to be held on the 20th April this year in Lagos. One Minister will be coming to preside over it. Sir John MacPherson when he was addressing the Nigerian House of Representatives the other day informed them of this Conference but when our own Governor was addressing this House at the opening of the Budget Session he made no mention of this thing at all. Really this beats my imagination. It is pretty obvious that one can easily infer that this Government try in a way to hide many things away from us. The public gets to know more things about the security of this country than we do. We have to know that there is going to be a conference on the 20th April and that we are going to be asked to vote huge sums of money running from £2 to £3 million because according to what I have heard the four West African Colonies are going to contribute about £10 to £12 million to this Defence Fund. I want to know from the Minister why we have not been told. Even at the time that we had a secret lecture from the General Officer Commanding West Africa Command no mention was made at all of this. Probably they had in view, when we went to that lecture, that we would be told something about our commitments in the future about security of West Africa and that we would be asked in this House to vote about £2 or £3 million. I have nothing more to say but to ask the Minister seriously that he should go into this case about the trouble brewing in the Customs Department. He may take it lightly but that is the point I want to make.

MR. G. O. AWUMA: There is no doubt that sincere and devoted work has been done by the entire Ministry, and the Minister in particular. I highly respect all the personalities I know in this Ministry. They all seem charming and always ready to serve. That is what I see on the outside and I feel that they are sincere. I do not know what others may think about them. Therefore I think the Minister himself and his personnel deserve to be highly congratulated.

But it seems to me however that the Ministry itself and the people who serve in it are all victims of a sort of high policy under which they are compelled to labour. I do not know who exactly formulates policy in this Ministry but I know that it is not this House that appoints the Minister and as we know he who pays the piper must call the tune. I myself have my doubts as to whether the policy of this Ministry is not formulated outside. We all have very high respect for the British but as I have said here again and again we fear British diplomacy. British diplomacy is a hydra-headed monster. Before you finish cutting off the second head the first one starts growing again like the tail of a lizard. The British are worse especially when they come to you like the Greeks with fine presents. Whilst smiling to you they know how to tread

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on your corn. I hope I am not offending anybody but we do know that Great Britain has not let go her hold on our country and we do not know whether something is not being done through this particular Ministry in order to delay our progress. The Minister in his speech has not told us anything at all about the Africanisation policy in that Ministry. We know there are some African Administrative Officers but what are their duties? In the districts those we see working with the Government Agents are mainly Assistant Government Agents. How many of them are full Government Agents? If you go to the high grade, Grade 1, 2 and so on—well, I do not know how they are graded—how many Africans are there? I agree that that is a question of time but we say we want self-government to-day. If Great Britain gives us our—self-government tomorrow we must see that we have in our country the security that she holds in her hand at the moment and that we must be given the chance either to manage our own affairs or to mismanage them. And so, here too, I would insist that the chance must be given to Africans who show promise. We know that in some departments when an African is promising he is transferred to some other departments because there is no chance there for promotion. But I do not know what is happening in his Ministry.

In the Estimates I find some facts there—Stenographer/Secretary. The salary is not attractive enough so I do not think it is for expatriates. I want to ask what is the special qualification expected of this Stenographer/Secretary? Also I want to know how many Africans have got this qualification and how many actually are serving as Stenographer/Secretaries?

Now, I turn to something that the Minister said. He mentioned the United Nations, and also the responsibility of this Government to that Organisation in respect of the Trust Territory of Togoland. He mentioned also the United Nations Visiting Mission that came there to make an on-the-spot examination of the unification question. We know that we here do not decide the unification problem but since he mentioned it I think I may be right to tell him what some people in the Trust Territory think about it. Many people in the Trust Territory tell us that it is their wish that the two zones should be unified and placed under one administration. Whether they want to go with the Gold Coast or whether they want to go with the French that is not what I want to talk about now. But the fundamental thing about it is that they want their homeland unified and they have been struggling for nearly ten years. They have got the United Nations from overseas to come to decide it. We know they cannot do it; what they can do is entirely dependent upon what advice they receive from the United Kingdom Government and the French Government. And these Governments also cannot do anything at all without being advised by the Gold Coast

10.30 a.m.

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Government and the Government of French Togoland. Therefore we hold the view that since the unification has not taken form, it is entirely the fault of the Government of the Gold Coast and the Government of French Togoland. We believe that if these two Governments can come together in a friendly manner they will easily find out a way of knowing exactly what is the majority view in Togoland, and upon their advice the problem can easily be solved. After all Togoland is a very small country and it will not be a loss at all to either Government to let go their portion of it. Therefore in this connection, I want this Government to know, and the Minister in particular since his Ministry is responsible for external affairs and particularly for dealing with the United Nations, that we in Togoland are holding him responsible for delaying this problem. If it is not going to be solved let us be told point blank; we cannot continue indefinitely to be held in suspense. Everybody knows that year in year out, ignorant farmers in Togoland let go their thousands to finance hopeless delegations to go before the United Nations only to be told "go back and co-operate with your Government at home". Well, why did you not tell us point blank that going to the United Nations is a waste and that the whole answer is in the hands of these two Governments—the Government of the Gold Coast and the Government of French Togoland. Unless this is done, we feel that we are only being deceived or held in suspense, and it will not be of any benefit to anybody at all.

MR. ARTHUR: The Office of the Chief Secretary is a very important one which should receive proper attention in this House. It is in this Ministry that matters affecting the welfare of this country are handled, and it is a pity that we have not sufficient Africans to know how the office is worked at the present moment. An Honourable Member has just said that nothing has been said about the unification system. This in fact creates a doubt in our minds, and we hope the Minister will take this seriously. But there is a point, Mr. Chairman, which is striking me and that is the Chief Secretary is a Minister in this House, and, if I am right, is under the Prime Minister; but it often happens that when the Governor is away from this country, the Minister who is under the Prime Minister in this House becomes the Officer Administering the Government.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: It is the Constitution!

MR. ARTHUR: It does not sound right at all. When it so happens it appears as if the Prime Minister has to bow to the Minister of Defence who is a Minister under him in this House and this is a point—

MR. CHAIRMAN: What has the Minister got to do with that policy?

MR. ARTHUR: Well, Mr. Chairman, this points to the fact that the Constitution is bogus and fraudulent (*laughter*).

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: And what is the remedy?

MR. ARTHUR: The remedy is to change it at once because it is a great disrespect to our Prime Minister.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: How?

MR. ARTHUR: With reference to the remarks made by my Honourable Friend from Anlo, with your permission I will read a telegram. This telegram was addressed to Honourable Pobee Biney—

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not consider it necessary that you should read it. We have heard all about it, and you will only be repeating what has been said already.

MR. ARTHUR: You may consider it to be unnecessary, but there is something happening at Takoradi which has to be brought to the notice of this House, because the Customs and Excise Department is a revenue earning department—

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have been told about that already. You are simply going to repeat what the Honourable Member said.

MR. ARTHUR: I am not going to repeat what he has already said. I am reading the telegram—

MR. CHAIRMAN: I said I do not consider it necessary that you should read it. That is my ruling and I am not going to change it.

MR. DADSON: When a Chief is deposed from his Stool for about three months or six months he forgets that he is no longer a Chief, and always goes out followed by a boy who carries and unfurls his umbrella for him (*laughter*). I hope I am not treading on the corns of our Chiefs here; I am only talking about the deposed Chiefs. I think that is the case with our expatriate friends. They have been controlling this country for quite a long time so much so that it has become their second nature, so that even now that power has slipped off their hands, they have not realised that power is no longer with them; and for that reason our venerable Minister of Defence, whom we so very highly honour is always taken to task when he comes to this House. He controls the Civil Servants and when they commit any blunders he is taken to task in this House. I would ask him therefore to hold a meeting with the Senior Civil Servants in this country and impress upon them that the position is no longer as it was before.

There is a committee which controls immigration. This committee entirely consists of expatriates and we are always under the impression that the committee has in most cases been sabotaging the in-coming of capitalists; that is how we feel about

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it, that they have always been sabotaging the in-coming of capitalists. At this stage we need many capitalists to put their money into trade and industry in this country, by means of which we should be able to put some money into the pockets of the ordinary worker or man in the street. So it is very necessary that a few Africans should be put on this committee. We know that these capitalists will not always be reasonable; at times we have such very questionable capitalists who will come to this country, and it is always reasonable for that committee to examine and see whether they come here with sincere intentions or whether they come here to defraud us. We feel that it is not always the case that such capitalists would like to come to this country to defraud us; however it has always been the policy of the committee to debar capitalists from coming into this country. We cannot in fact tap our natural resources unless we have such people. So I would ask the Minister of Defence to put the Ministerial Secretaries to the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Commerce on this committee so that we might watch the interest of the people of this country.

Another point I would like to make is about the female typists whose position was considered the other day in this House. The female typists come into this country at times married to the Civil Servants and by virtue of the fact that they are married to these Civil Servants they work their way through quite easily to take appointment with the Government here. We feel that we have such typists here who can equally do as much as they do. We have no quarrel with them; we do not very much care whether they are working here; but what we like to know is that do they go through the same examination with their African counterparts? The Honourable Minister of Finance told us here the other day that these stenographers are examined in the United Kingdom by the Crown Agents. We do not know the sort of examination through which they go and the type of examination given here is so strict that it is difficult for candidates to pass. If the same examination held in the United Kingdom could be held here, perhaps we may feel that it is competitive enough and our people will show some sort of credit. So we would like them to come here to take the same examination with our African indigenes in this country.

Now when the Honourable Member for Sekondi spoke he mentioned two persons, and I am not going to repeat what he said, but I would like to call the attention of the Minister to be a little sympathetic over these things. The reason is that this man whose name is mentioned, Mr. Lartey, has been trained at the expense of this country; we do not say that because he has been trained at the expense of this country he should go to do whatever pleases him; he should obey the laws and regulations of the Civil Service, but at the same time we feel that the measures taken against this man are too drastic. He has got a very good knowledge of the

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profession in which he is engaged and we are asking the Honourable Minister to reconsider the matter. We would ask the Minister to go into the matter and see that he is not dismissed. As soon as a Civil Servant is dismissed his career is entirely blighted. He cannot have any work anywhere, and it is difficult for him to make ends meet; it is difficult for him even to maintain his family. After training this man with the money of this country we cannot afford to lose him in this unfortunate manner. And we would like the Minister to go into the case.

And again he mentioned the case of Mr. Tandoh. Mr. Tandoh's case has been mentioned to the Minister, and I am sure that he is going to give that case a very sympathetic consideration. I have already told you that this man, Mr. Tandoh, has spent the whole of his youth in the Police service, and if he is to be sent away without being compensated in any way, it is like asking him to go and commit suicide. He has nothing to live on; he cannot maintain himself, much more his family. We are not bringing in pressure to bear upon the Minister, but we are asking him to take a very sympathetic view of the matter again.

We hear that Mr. Hewson of the Co-operative Department is likely to be made a Regional Officer. We have no personal grudge against Mr. Hewson, but we have a grudge against policy, and we would like in fact at this stage to tell the Minister that these are some of these things we feel are anomalous, these are some of the things that make us feel that there is some difference in the treatment of the African and the expatriate. If these things are stopped we shall have no headache, we shall have no bones in this House to crack with any expatriate. If this man should be made a Regional Officer, after we have so much censured him in this House, we shall feel that this is not correct. When the African commits offences against the laws of the Civil Service, and he is so drastically dealt with, any expatriate who commits the same offence should be treated in a similar manner. So we would like the Minister to go into the matter and if it is true that this man is going to be made a Regional Officer a check of a kind should be brought to bear on him.

10.45 a.m.

MR. ATTAFUAH: If we were to discuss the Civil Servants, especially the expatriates, I think we would have to ask Mr. Chairman to give us a whole year to discuss them.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Why?

MR. ATTAFUAH: Because some of them have questionable character. We have in Oda a Foreman of Works who is in charge of the Public Works Department there. This gentleman has no respect whatsoever for the African whether he be a Member of the Assembly or whatever he may be. I need not go to discuss them.

[MR. ATTAFUAH]

If they are here to work with us and if it is from this country that they receive their daily bread, they must give respect to the African. If not those who are not willing to move about with the Africans should better pack and go; that is all, that is the alternative.

Last Saturday I went to one of the offices to interview one of the secretaries. I stood for about 10 minutes with a certain gentleman and fortunately the secretary came up and saw me with that other gentleman. The gentleman, of course, had been there before me and so he was just behind the door. But when the secretary saw me he said to the other gentleman, "Well, my friend, I am prepared to receive you, but since a Member of the Assembly is here, would you not mind giving him a chance before you come?" the gentleman said, "all right". So I went in and after I had finished with the secretary he called that gentleman in. These are the sort of expatriates we want to work with; those who think they are better than us had better stay at home and rest rather than come and give us worries here. Mr. Chairman, if the intention of this Government in recruiting such expatriates into the country to fill vacancies in the various departments, is purposely to solve the problem of unemployment in Great Britain, then I will tell the Minister or the Government that we also have unemployment in this country. Our children are walking about without jobs, they should be given the first chance to enter the various departments before we think of the expatriates.

Mr. Chairman, in going further I would say that the office of the Legislature is now a complete department of its own and at the head of it is the Clerk of the Assembly. This officer is a very responsible officer. His opposite number in Nigeria is an expatriate (*interruption*)—I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, I will discuss this matter when we come to Legislature.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: You will not have the chance, go on!

MR. ATTAFUAH: I think anyway he is a Civil Servant—and so I would counsel the Minister to consider and review the salary of this Clerk as well as that of his Deputy.

Mr. Chairman, to end, I will say that we have had enough of the expatriates in the various departments and so we should give chance to our own children, who are also hungry, to be fed first and foremost before we continue to recruit expatriates from the United Kingdom.

MR. W. E. A. OFORI ATTA: Mr. Chairman, it is unfortunate that the present Minister is only an acting Minister, but I do not think that this is a sufficient excuse for the treatment that he has given us this morning. I think this Ministry does not

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sufficiently realise the stage which this country has reached in its progress towards maturity. Here we are, Gold Coast in 1953, discussing the Chief Secretary's Office, the Ministry of Defence and External Affairs, and the Minister of Defence and External Affairs fails to tell us anything about defence. We are grown-ups, we are entitled to know what is being done about security. Here is a Minister of Defence who is in charge of recruitment of staff for the Civil Service and he has introduced his budget and he has failed to tell us the Ministry's plans for recruitment. Here is a Ministry in charge of the training of staff for the Civil Service and the Minister opens a debate asking for large sums of money and he has failed to tell us the Government's plans for training of personnel for the Civil Service. I know there are plans, but we ought to know what is the result of the present recruitment policy. Why is it that there are so many vacancies in the Senior Service—700 vacancies? What is responsible for it? What are Government going to do about it? The only answer that the Minister has given so far is that we have established a Standing Committee on Africanisation. This is important, because this is the last remnant of imperialism. The Minister of Defence is a symbol of imperialism in this country and that is why it is necessary for us to know what his plans are.

Now, Mr. Chairman, there is another thing which always worries me. Why is the Minister of Defence always referred to as the Chief Secretary? Chief Secretary to whom? That is an imperialist relic. Chief Secretary to whom? To the Governor? He has a Secretary.

There is one charge which I have against this Ministry and probably against the entire Government. They have no respect for this Assembly. Important information which ought to reach us first is usually sent to the Press before we know about it and this is done even when we are in session. They have no respect for us.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: It is very true!

MR. OFORI ATTA: Now the Minister knows that we have attacked these Regional Organisations. What is the future of the Regional Organisations? That is one question; and secondly, why is it under you? Is it because it is one of the imperialist techniques? Because this Regional Organisation is primarily concerned with Local Government affairs. Why is it that this Regional Organisation continues to serve under you? Because you are an imperialist!

Now, Mr. Chairman, this question of discrimination is very important and I am going to appeal to the Minister of Commerce and Industry that his Government must take it up. We have had European expatriate Civil Servants for over 100 years. Have you ever heard of one European Civil Servant being sent to court to be tried?

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: No, no!

MR. OFORI ATTA: Have you one or two—

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Shoot ahead!

MR. OFORI ATTA: Now, this is one of the great injustices because you are the principal African Minister here, and this is bad. We find Africans in the Senior Service and Junior Services sometimes doing the same wrongs as their expatriate brothers and then they are disgraced, they are humiliated and they are driven and deprived of their pension rights and gratuity. An expatriate officer does the same thing or something worse and then he is despatched at once to his home to go on leave and to retire after leave. We know all these things and the African Ministers must do something about it because this is one of the things which have made us feel inferior to the whiteman. You go to the bush, there they know that the whiteman is honest, that he is truthful, he never tells lies, he never steals, he never embezzles; only the African does it why? Because in the Press and in local conversation, all they hear is, one African Civil Servant has done this, one Policeman has done that, and there is not one opportunity for him to learn of a whiteman doing something human—stealing or embezzling or something. For our own prestige it is important that when these people commit offences of this nature they should be treated justly.

We have made much noise about civility. Well, I do not think that the white Civil Servant is worse than the black Civil Servant in manners. In fact, if we are to be honest to ourselves, we must admit that on the whole the manners of the expatriate Civil Servant are better than the manners of our own (hear! hear!). But the point is this that most of the Africans have learnt their bad manners from the expatriates. I say this, and you will admit that some years ago these Civil Servants, as we kept on telling them, were not Civil Servants, they were Civil Masters and their attitude to us was one of the superior master to an imperial servant and therefore they have forgotten the manners that they learnt in their own homes. If you go to the place where the Chief Whip always goes to, the United Kingdom (*laughter*) and you go to any officer in the Government or even the ordinary commercial stores, you will find that the Civil Servant there who an hour ago when he met you on the street called you "the nigger" would say, "good morning, Sir, what can I do for you?" In the office his manners are perfect. When he meets you in the street he can tell you you are a nigger and all sorts of things, and when they come here then their manners change. And as a result, some of the bad Africans are copying their bad manners and are thinking that they are bosses, and in particular, as the Honourable Member for Sekondi has said, when they do not know that you are Chief Whip or a Member of this Assembly, then they try to bully you. These bush farmers

11 a.m.

[MR. OFORI ATTA]

who go to these offices are always treated shabbily mostly by African Junior Civil Servants. Therefore we must tell them, both they and the whites that they are there to serve the public and they must be civil to them (hear ! hear ! hear !).

Then there is one thing we must correct. I remember a year or two years ago, a Member of the Assembly, now I think he is a Ministerial Secretary, made an attack on one Civil Servant. Then he went home and he met this Civil Servant and this Civil Servant said " Yes, you have been attacking me. Well, I do not care for anything; every time you attack me, I get promotion ". (*Laughter*). Now first of all, if this is true, then it is wicked and something must be done about it. But it must be true—

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: It is true, it is true.

MR. OFORI ATTA: Well—it must be true. Now a gentleman called Captain Imray stood at the Christiansborg Cross Roads and shot all of us (*laughter*) and a Commission was appointed and it was shown that he could have used more humane methods; but the British Government said: " No; we must not disgrace a superior officer ", and he was promoted.

And we also had a Governor; he introduced a Sedition Bill; and we all opposed it; we were very bitter, in fact that was when I learnt my politics (*laughter*) and all that the British Government did was to promote him (*laughter*). That sort of thing is going on and it must be checked. Because it disappoints the African under them; it disappoints the public, and I am appealing in particular to the Minister of Commerce and Industry to stand firm and see that justice is done to all of us—justice is done to the African Civil Servants and justice is done to the European Civil Servants.

But there is one danger—I shall say this and I end. We have been very free in our attacks on Civil Servants; some of them could not be helped; some of them could have been helped; but many of them have been enraged by our attacks and have become disgruntled. In that state of mind in which some of them are, they cannot do us any good; they are disgruntled, and they have now become uppish and all that sort of thing and they cannot in that state of mind serve this country. So I appeal to this Government in order to do justice to all of us, to try and find out these disgruntled Civil Servants who cannot live under the present conditions where the black man is on top and the white man is on the other side; if they cannot serve, let us leave them as governors, settle their terms squarely, even give them generous terms and let us see the back of them. That is the only way we can do justice to ourselves.

MR. L. R. ABAVANA: Mr. Chairman, I would have liked to associate myself with those who congratulated the Minister of Defence and External Affairs, but I find it difficult to do so wholeheartedly because it is two years since the Minister made us to understand that he was trying to repeal the Liquor Ordinance in the Northern Territories. For that reason, I do not join those who gave him 100 per cent marks; I am only giving him 40 per cent. Then again, I was surprised to hear that the Registrar of Co-operative Societies is going to be made the Chief Regional Officer and I have also heard that the Chief Regional Officer of the Northern Territories will soon be retiring. I would like to point out to the Minister that we are very grateful to all the officers working under the Regional Administration in the Northern Territories and for that reason, if there is anyone to take his place, we would like somebody from the Northern Territories and not from any department.

DR. DANQUAH: Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to attack the Minister in particular, or the Ministry in general in connection with this motion before us. Because according to the Constitution no Minister in this House is responsible for what is happening. According to the Constitution, the one man responsible for what is happening is the Governor himself. Unfortunately the Governor is not here. The Governor has transferred his powers to the Public Service Commission, and they are doing just what they like because they are not responsible to this House. I refer to the Constitution page 29 which makes the position quite clear.

“The appointment, promotion, transfer, dismissal and disciplinary control of the Public Service is hereby vested in the Governor acting in his discretion”.

Section 66 of the Constitution—“acting in his discretion” means he acts without consulting any Minister and not even the *ex-officio* Ministers; he may, if he likes, consult them; but there is no obligation. The Governor is not bound to consult them. In the succeeding two sections the Governor is given power to appoint a Public Service Commission. This Public Service Commission is appointed in the Governor's discretion and therefore they are as an Advisory Body to the Governor, and to the Governor alone. I was not here last week when I understand the Minister of Finance said that the Public Service Commission is an independent body. That is not accurate according to the Constitution. The Public Service Commission is not an independent body. The Members are subject to the sole control and the control only of the Governor, and all these things we are saying reflect directly on the administration of the Governor, and not on any Minister here. It may be that he has given the power to the Chief Secretary to act for him, but he is not responsible to us under the Constitution. It is the Governor and the Governor alone. Therefore all these matters really reflect on the supreme question of the Constitution, and I do hope that very soon we shall have the opportunity of turning this whole thing upside down to get what we want. (Hear! Hear! Hear!).

[DR. DANQUAH]

Now, Sir, some people have spoken on the prestige of the expatriates. They are entitled to their prestige. But there is such a thing as false prestige. The public does know that expatriates do commit some of the offences which Africans in the Service also commit; the public rarely sees an expatriate being prosecuted by the Court. The Second Rural Member for Akim Abuakwa did say that no expatriate had been prosecuted for a long time, except probably, two or three. I do remember about ten years ago, a particular expatriate at the Public Works Department, Weija Waterworks, was brought to the Court and charged for having given public property to a very popular woman in Accra called Muni Lagos. This public officer was taken to Court, to the Assizes and fined £40. And what happened to him? He retired on pension. This thing is happening constantly; public officers committing offences and then being sent away "retired on pension". Since the case of this particular person, I do not remember a single public officer, I mean expatriate, being taken to Court for trial. This is creating a false prestige for the Gold Coast expatriates because in Nigeria we do now and again hear of the expatriate being prosecuted. Why do we insist that in the Gold Coast, there should be no such thing? Do you think we regard you as clean as angels? We know you are as much sinners as ourselves; we know what is going on, but we do not want the black sheep to give a black name to all of you. Whoever is in charge and responsible in this matter, whether it be the Governor or the Chief Secretary from time to time should put a case in Court to let the public see that there is one black sheep among the flock of white expatriates in this country. This will give us satisfaction; not only that, but it will inspire others in the Public Service in particular, Africans, to see that this discipline is not only there for them, but for everybody in the Public Service.

I want to speak on the question of Africanisation. First of all, I want to congratulate the Government or the Minister or whoever is responsible for it on appointing the Africanisation Standing Committee. This is taking the matter a little further than two or three years ago. Two or three years ago, I did suggest in this House that, it was not enough appointing an Africanisation Commissioner; that they should produce an Ordinance in which they will give power to the Africanisation Commissioner and a body of persons to carry on Africanisation in the proper sense in this country. The Government may have taken notice or they may have not. To-day, they have appointed a Standing Africanisation Committee to advise the officer on recruitment and training. I would like to suggest that as early as possible, the Government should introduce a Bill in this Assembly giving full powers to a full powered Africanisation Committee composed of responsible persons, who will be charged with full powers to

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Africanise the Gold Coast Public Service. And by Africanisation we do not mean merely appointing one or two Africans from time to time, but a system of gradually weeding out systematically, expatriates from the Service.

We must give that Africanisation Committee the power to create a plan by which we can say in five years or ten years or fifteen, there will be no expatriate in the Gold Coast Public Service. That plan is required. That is what the Second Rural Member for Akim Abuakwa was speaking about. Where is your plan? When you tell us that there are in the Service 1,900 expatriates and about 600 Africans and 700 vacancies still unfilled; we ask you, where is your plan to fill these 700 positions? And constantly, you call upon us and tell us that unless we paid very high salaries, we could not get expatriates from abroad to serve this country. Well, we cannot afford paying these high salaries every time. There is one instance of a very highly paid man in this particular Ministry. I refer to the Principal of the Government Shorthand and Typing School. He gets £800 to £1,000, and his next in command, the Instructor gets £430 to £580. Apparently, these Instructors are all Africans drawing £430-£580. I am quite sure that if the posts had been created for an African, the highest amount he would have been paid would have been £800. But because we want to get an expatriate there, they must create a salary high enough to attract this kind of man. We must devise a means through which we can stop these expatriates coming, because they cost us a lot of money and it is the money that counts—so far as the Public Service Commission is concerned it is the money that counts—because if we fail to pay them, they would fail to give their services; and if we fail to get the best men, this country would also fail to get the best service from them. But we cannot go on paying these high salaries for the simple reason that money is required for better purposes; for productive uses. Therefore we charge the Government that as soon as possible they should bring a Bill to this House, appointing an Africanisation Commission who will be given full powers to do what they liked in so far as Africanisation is concerned. They must be given full powers with funds at their disposal, to send men for training not only to the United Kingdom, but to America, Canada, Japan and every possible place where we can train men to take appointments in our Service within ten to fifteen years.

11.15 a.m.

I come lastly to the Coronation Delegation. The Minister has told us of the Coronation Delegation. The Minister has told us that four Members have been appointed to represent the Gold Coast at the Coronation of Her Majesty the Queen. These four persons come from this Assembly; all four of them are Members of this Assembly; two are Ministers and two are non-Ministers.

[DR. DANQUAH]

Now, I have seen a statement by the Government to the effect that the Secretary of State asked the Government to send four Gentlemen from the Gold Coast to attend the Queen's Coronation. I am surprised to find that in the view of the Government the only Gentlemen to be found in the Gold Coast are to be found in this Assembly, and outside this Assembly there are no Gentlemen to be found.

MR. BEDIAKO POKU: It does not follow.

DR. DANQUAH: I am surprised that the Gold Coast with its prestige as a nation which for generations has had Kings of importance who have stood up to fight against British Imperial power, the Gold Coast with all its glamorous accoutrements of Chiefs and palanquins and Linguist sticks—the traditions of Ashanti and the Colony—they are not to have a representative to tell or show the British people what is at the background of the culture and progress of the Gold Coast people. I know that one Chief from the Northern Territories has been appointed but I think to do justice to the prestige of the Gold Coast one Chief at least of some importance whose history or the history of whose country is known to the British people ought to have been sent. People in England would have said: "Here is Nana Prempeh, successor of Osei Tutu or Karikari who stood against the British and sometimes defeated them. He comes to-day to be present at the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth". We the people of the Gold Coast whose tradition is so high in the question of Chieftaincy are sending to this Coronation persons not one of whom represents the traditions of the Colony and Ashanti. I think the Government have deliberately sought to create the impression that we are only a country of politicians, not a country where we have independent Chiefs, independent professional men or other men of independent views. Why did the Government not go outside the Assembly to appoint a single professional man, from religion, from the Bar, from the Engineers to represent the progress of this country not only in politics but in other walks of life? Why did not the Government call upon the Youth Organisations of this country to send at least one delegate to go with these four to represent the Youth of this country? You have confined your selection only to politicians and I want to tell the Government that you have done a great mistake. These people are going to create the impression of what the Gold Coast is composed of: they are going to create the impression that Gold Coast Gentlemen can only be found in the Assembly and they are not going to create the right impression that this country has a tradition of great importance or some value in the eyes of the British people. This day, the Coronation day, the British people will bring out all their old Royal Crowns and Royal Sceptres and Royal flowing gowns and robes and the Gold

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Coast which can in certain respects compete with Britain in equal terms when it comes to the question of Chieftaincy, is shabbily represented by only four men in English dress. It is a disgrace.

MR. E. NORTON-JONES: Mr. Chairman, the First Rural Member for Akim Abuakwa has just referred to a very high salary which will be given to the Principal of the Government Shorthand and Typing Training School. I am not prepared to advise any revision of that salary. The post is held by an African Officer.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: So what ?

MR. NORTON-JONES: The Member for Anlo referred to an impending conference of the West African Forces and took me to task because I had not put out any information to the public about this conference. Now some time ago it was known and believed by me that there would be a conference round about Easter time of officials to study certain matters relating to the financing of the West African Forces. Subsequently I heard that Nigeria Ministers had expressed a wish to attend the conference and that, as a result, the Secretary of State for the Colonies had made a proposal that a Minister of State of the United Kingdom should be invited to preside. It was only within the last five days that I learned and informed my colleagues of the proposal that a Minister of State would be available to take the Chair, and also to inform them of the wishes of the Nigerian Ministers, and I have not yet had full consultation with my colleagues on the whole matter.

The Member for Tarkwa referred to a committee which handles matters relating to immigration. I thought I heard him to say that the decisions were made by this committee. I would like to correct that impression. The committee makes recommendations to me and I, after consulting my colleague the Minister of Commerce and Industry, give the decision. But recently at my invitation my colleagues will themselves give close examination to all those applications which I feel inclined to propose to them should be refused.

Now, in the debates of this meeting, mention has been made on several occasions of the names of Civil Servants—African and European—and I as the present head of the Civil Service feel it my duty to call your attention to the reasons for not removing from public officers the coat of anonymity. Last Friday during the debate on the Estimates of the Housing Department, the Chief Government Whip referred to Standing Order 48 which precludes any discussion of the conduct of persons in high authority save upon a substantive motion. It is true that Civil Servants cannot be included in the category of persons in high authority, but Honourable Members will be aware of another Standing Order which sets

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out that in cases of doubt the Standing Orders of this Assembly shall be interpreted in the light of the relevant practice of the House of Commons.

It is the practice of the House of Commons, a practice which has become a tradition, that the names of Civil Servants shall not be mentioned. There is, I submit, a sound reason for the adoption of this practice, quite apart from any consideration of the deep-rooted sense of fair play of not attacking a man who is not in a position to defend himself.

11.30 a.m.

Civil Servants are called upon to perform duties of a semi-judicial nature, and in the performance of those duties they may give decisions which will adversely affect individual or collective interests. Those decisions are likely to be influenced if the thought is in the mind of the Civil Servant that an unpopular verdict may render him liable to be summarily condemned without being heard. Democratic Government is incompatible with judgments which are delivered through fear or partiality. This practice of protecting Civil Servants is not followed in certain other countries in the world. But I would like to suggest to Honourable Members that it is because of the adoption of this practice by the House of Commons that the British Civil Service has been enabled to build up for itself a great and enviable reputation, a reputation which is not shared by countries where the practice is not observed.

When I say that public officers should be relegated to a position of decent obscurity, I mean that no Civil Servant should be named in the Assembly either by way of rebuke or by way of commendation. The Civil Service has its own methods—*(interruption)*.

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: On a point of order. There has been a ruling on this question of naming Civil Servants by the Speaker of the House. Therefore I think the matter cannot be raised until further discussion has been held somewhere either by a Committee of privileges or otherwise.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not think he is answering you. I think he is answering Mr. Krobo Edusei.

MR. NORTON-JONES: And the Civil Service also has its own scale of rewards and punishments.

At one time during these debates I thought the criticisms against certain overseas officers arose from a feeling of frustration among Members that the problem of Africanisation was not being treated with a proper sense of importance and of urgency. I could have understood, though I could not have condoned, the sentiments which prompted Honourable Members to criticise such overseas

[MR. NORTON-JONES]

officers, but I heard the names of African officers both by way of condemnation and by way of criticism, and I began to fear for the future welfare of the Gold Coast Civil Service. No man can work efficiently and with contentment if he believes that his employer may subject him to public ridicule. Your Civil Servants, African and overseas, will be loyal to and will do their duty by whatever Government is in power in this country. But loyalty is inspired by mutual respect and by mutual trust, and if loyalty is to be expected from the servant, loyalty must be shown by the master (hear! hear!). If you destroy this sense of loyal service among Civil Servants, you will make a mockery of the oft repeated saying "Only the best is good enough for Africa".

I must warn Honourable Members that the chances of finding men of ability and integrity in the employment markets of the world, and I include the Gold Coast, will be largely, if not completely, stultified when a prospective employee is given reason to believe that in his service to the Gold Coast he may be branded publicly as an unwanted or as an undesirable person. I do ask Honourable Members to reflect on the importance of words which are uttered in this Assembly. These words are not fugitive and forgotten; they are recorded and can be seen forever in the pages of the Gold Coast *Hansard*, a book which to-day is being despatched to the four corners of the earth.

MR. OFORI ATTA: Your case is made.

MR. NORTON-JONES: So for the dignity of this House, for the welfare of the Gold Coast Civil Service, and for the reputation of this Country, I ask you not to adopt a practice which is unfair, unsound, undignified and unparliamentary.

The question:

"That the sum of £189,800 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Chief Secretary's Office and Ministry of Defence and External Affairs shall stand part of the Schedule."

was put, and agreed to.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS

Electricity Department

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS (MR. J. A. BRAIMAH): I beg to move that the sum of £606,200 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill under Head 21 for the service of the Electricity Department shall stand part of the Schedule. At the same time I move that the sum of £291,550 shall be included in the sum provided in the Third Schedule for the purpose of developing the electricity services under Head DF/11.

[MR. BRAIMAH]

Good progress has been made in expanding and improving existing services and developing new services considering the continued difficulty of recruiting engineering staff. The monthly average number of units of electricity generated in 1952 was 35 per cent greater than in 1950. The generation of electricity has more than doubled since June, 1947.

The establishment for which provision is made under Head 21 is that recommended by the Conversions Committee and sanctioned by the Standing Finance Committee, increased only by the inclusions of those posts which, during the current year, are shown as annually recurrent charges arising from development.

The extension of generating capacity during this year has led to a need for more staff to undertake the expansion of the distribution system to the public and the running of large and new power stations. This staff is shown as an annually recurrent charge arising from development and comprises officers in the engineering field, the artisan grades and the clerical grades. In addition a new post has been included for a Superintendent of Stores which is essential for the proper control of the large and valuable stock of specialised electrical and engineering stores carried by the department.

I wish to draw attention to one point concerning an item not shown in the printed Estimates under Head 21. Recently a training scheme has been prepared which is designed to produce men qualified as Artisans Grade I. By thus increasing the cadre of officers from which selected men can be later promoted to the Grade of Station Engineer the policy of accelerating Africanisation will be further promoted and the present difficulties in recruiting Station Engineers will gradually be eased.

The present effective strength of the Senior Staff in the department is 47, 13 of these posts are held by Africans. The Deputy Head of the Department who is at present acting as Chief Electrical Engineer is an African. There are 13 vacancies still to be filled.

The general trend of increasing costs in recent years had, until the current year, been offset by increased production, but a rise in the cost of gas oil and the recently introduced new terms of service have now caused expenditure to exceed revenue. It has therefore been necessary to revise the tariff charges. The new tariff is so designed, however, that the smallest possible burden falls on those least able to afford an extra call upon their pockets. In fact, for the average member of the lower income wage-earner group the increase is purely nominal, amounting to some sixpence a month.

Funds sought under Head DF/11 are mainly for the continued expansion of existing supplies. They do, however, provide for the first substantial steps to be taken in implementing the Asamankese

[MR. BRAIMAH]

Scheme. I am only too well aware of the desire in all parts of the House for electricity to be supplied to many towns which are not included in the plan. Members know that the scope of the Electricity Plan is limited by staff and material resources as well as by finance and I have said before that even we were more fortunately blessed in these respects, any proposals for new installations must first be investigated to discover whether they could run economically. However, to stop at making these declarations is, I feel, not enough, and I have therefore proposed that two experienced Electrical Engineers should be recruited on contract terms, partly to accelerate the progress of the present plan, but mainly to investigate those requests which seem most likely to prove economical. Provision for these posts is not shown in the Estimates because the decision to recruit these men has been very recent.

I now seek approval for the inclusion in the First Schedules of the Bill of the sums of £606,200 and £291,550 respectively.

Mr. Chairman, I beg to move.

Motion made and question proposed.

MR. J. K. A. QUASHIE: Mr. Chairman, I have only one question to ask. I would like to know from the Minister, when he intends to send an Electrical Engineer to Keta. I have repeated on many occasions in this House that the power house was built in 1947, the plant was ordered by the Government and has been lying idle in the Chief Electrical Engineer's office since 1948 and the people last year were told that an Electrical Engineer would be posted to the area and that they should find accommodation for him. The Government Agent at Keta was very kind and generous and said because the people were eager to see some form of development in the area he, on his own accord, would vacate his own bungalow in favour of the Electrical Engineer. This information was passed on to all the Local Councils and the District Council in the area, and I stood in public and told them that at long last the Minister of Communications and Works, a very energetic fellow, had promised us an Electrical Engineer and that that man would be posted to the area in November, 1952. We are now in 1953 (*interruption*)—The Ministerial Secretaries are so happy that we have not got an Electrical Engineer in Keta district. They have in their own areas other forms of development but Keta is the only town in the Trans-Volta/Togoland Region where electricity is promised to the people as an amenity. The Honourable Member for Kete-Krachi told us in this House that some of us are Honourable Liars. I do not want to repeat that; I want to have the last and fullest assurance from the Minister that he is going to give us an Electrical Engineer without any more failure. He promised at one time to give the people an Electrical Engineer, then when he

[MR. QUASHIE]

returned to his office, he found that the Electrical Engineer for that purpose was ill or had retired; that is no argument at all. He should have foreseen that some difficulties would come at long last and provision should have been made for transfers, retirements and sick leave and so forth. I know such things are done and I want to have the last assurance from the Minister so that if I return during the Easter holidays to my constituency I might be able to tell them "for ever and ever, Amen, you are no more going to be supplied with an Electrical Engineer".

MR. BEDIAKO POKU : Mr. Chairman, the Second Rural Member for Akim Abuakwa in a speech this morning said that the Government had no respect for this august Assembly and I am repeating the statement, because if you look on the Order Paper for to-day you see that we have got only two hours for certain items. If you look on the Order Paper for tomorrow you will see that we have got about 43 items and we have only 1½ hours to debate a very important department that affects Members, so that we can finish in time, and then if Mr. Chairman allows it we can tackle some of tomorrow's items.

When I come to Accra, I always feel much happier than when I am in Kumasi because in Accra all the Government Departments or Government activities go with accurate precision. The need of the public is always considered ; but in Kumasi everything is upside down, from the Post Office to the Hospital, the Electrical Department to the Public Works Department. The public are not satisfied at all. Because of the speech that the Minister of Defence and External Affairs has made this morning, I am not going to attack the expatriate Electrical Officer in Kumasi, because if I do that it will go on record, but I like to see the Minister after this session and explain matters to him.

In Accra we have got the following cinema halls : Globe Cinema, Rex, Opera, Regal, Park Cinema, Roxy, Royal—about 12 cinemas in Accra. In Kumasi, we have got only two cinema halls in the whole town, the Odeon about two miles from the Post Office and the other Rex, about 2½ miles from the Post Office. But a certain man has put up a very nice cinema hall at Aboabo. He has explored all avenues to get electricity installed, but all his efforts have been in vain. Now, you know that cinema has become part of the people's entertainment, so I am requesting you humbly, Mr. Minister, to do your best to help. Although according to the Committee on Public Utility, it has been stated that things like that should not be placed on priority list, I am appealing to you for the sake of the people at Aboabo to do your best to extend electricity facilities to this man who has built a cinema hall.

[MR. POKU]

Again, in places like Suame, New Tafo, even Ashanti New Town where the Asantehene stays, there are houses which have applied for electricity about two years ago and they have not been supplied with it. We were told about two or three years ago that a new A.C. plant would be installed. They have installed the A.C. plant, still people cannot get their supplies. So I am appealing to you to see that people at New Tafo, Suame, Amakom, Anwonakrom and Aboabo, all within the Kumasi Municipality, are considered in respect of electricity.

Finally, there are certain Local Governments in Ashanti that are trying to buy their own plants and instal electricity in their various towns, but the difficulty is that at times they lack technical advice. Not all the Local Governments have been able to employ Electrical Engineers, so I am suggesting also to the Minister that he should do his best to ask some of his Electrical technicians in Kumasi to go to the aid of the Local Governments when they wish to instal electric plants on their own account. Techiman, for instance, have been able to buy their own plant, but they lack an Engineer who will instal it for them.

The last point and I have finished. We have said in this House so many times that we do not like recruitment on contract. That has been made plain in this House. In the Minister's speech he mentioned recruiting some expatriate officers on contract. This contract way of recruiting is costing the country more than people employed on pensionable terms. So we are suggesting to him that we do not like this system of contract.

MR. A. ASUMDA: Mr. Chairman, people have been saying that Members of the Assembly should not always confine their speeches to their constituencies or their region. But so far as electricity is concerned, about development, I wish to say that since the Electricity Department was established in this country there are only three towns in the Northern Territories which have been supplied with electricity. These towns are Tamale, Pong-Tamale and Bolgatanga. Social life is now growing among the people of the Northern Territories and electricity is one of the factors which will promote it. There are more big towns in the Northern Territories which could be considered for facilities of electricity such as Wa, Bawku, Navrongo, Lawra and Yendi. But the Government fail to consider them. We were hoping that something would come out from the Development Plan, mentioning the provision of electricity to any of these towns, but I am surprised that nothing has been mentioned. I therefore draw the attention of the Minister not to forget the Northern Territories. We know that he is here not to represent the North only, but the whole country, but so far as electricity is concerned, the Northern Territories must be considered. The last speaker has mentioned so

[MR. ASUMDA]

many places in Kumasi requiring electricity supplies. In the whole region of 1½ million people there is only one town which has been provided with electricity. Therefore I ask the Minister strongly to consider the North so far as electricity is concerned. We are not going to benefit in respect of electricity under the Volta River Scheme. Our only hope is the electricity which is provided at present. Therefore if Government do not make any provision for us we are doomed. I therefore ask the Minister strongly to consider the Northern Territories so far as electricity is concerned.

12 noon

MR. POBEE BINEY: Mr. Chairman, I wish to dilate on this department with some questions concerning Africanisation in this department. We all know we have one African in this department who was formerly in the Railway and with your permission, Mr. Chairman, I want to read his degrees to you; and if you do not want the degrees, I will quote his experiences; and if you do not want his experiences I will talk of his personality and conduct (*laughter*). Now Item 1 paragraph 1—Chief Electrical Engineer. The pay is £2,100. Can we not get an African to do the job for about £1,500? Can we not do this job with an African at the head of affairs?

According to the Estimates, we have a Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer. So far as we know, he is an African and he holds the following degrees—A.M.I.E.E. and B.Sc. Therefore it is clear that he can do the job. At present he is getting £1,500; let us give him about £2,000 a year to be the Chief Electrical Engineer and we shall thereby save some money for this country. You see, you are wasting the country's money on expatriates; it is a waste of this country's money and I must point it out to this Government. Formerly the Railway was having expatriate Engine Drivers in this country, but because of economic reasons—they were actually wasting the revenue of this country—they were sent back and Africans were appointed to do the job, with lower pay. So Africans can do the work nicely, and I appeal to you seriously that this thing should be scrutinised. We have three Senior Electrical Engineers. I would like to know their qualifications; I would like to know if they have A.M.I.E.E. and B.Sc. If they have not got any of these qualifications, then why are they Engineers? You cannot call a Fitter an Engineer. There is a difference between an Engineer and a Fitter.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Address the Chair.

MR. POBEE BINEY: I am addressing the Chair, Sir.

There is one more fact which I would like to bring—

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Be brief.

Mr. POBEE BINEY: I will be brief as much as possible, Mr. Chairman. The Government of this country, or the Electricity Department, in the past sent one man to the United Kingdom to study electricity. And this man's name is E. M. B. Embill. I should like to mention that I knew this very man in the Railway before he left the Railway to the Electricity Department and I was very happy that the Electricity Department gave him this scholarship because they found him efficient. But since he came what has been done to him? He is still an Artisan. If the Minister will challenge me I will prove that he is still an Artisan. The man in fact can hold the post of Electrical Engineer but he is still an Artisan, simply because he is an African; probably other reasons may be that he has not got degrees, probably he has not got character, or he has not got personality, and I want the Minister to answer the question why he is still an Artisan.

Now I turn to Sub-Head 11. We have 11 Station Engineers. How many of these 11 Station Engineers are Africans? How many of them? If none, I would like to know the qualifications of the expatriates who hold them. I now come to the question of 5 Higher Executive Officers, Sub-head 22. I believe they are new appointments. To have for the whole of the Gold Coast only 5 Higher Executive Officers is insufficient. Why can't we get 10 or 20 to do the job? There are many employees in this department who have been in the Service for so many years; many of them will soon retire. If they do, what will be the situation in this department. I feel that the question of Higher Executive posts must be considered properly. I am suggesting to the Government that the number should be increased. The number is too small and there should be at least 40 or 45.

Mr. B. F. KUSI: Mr. Chairman, reading through page 37 of the Gold Coast Estimates on Development—1952-53, we noticed that in the whole of Ashanti provision is made for only Kumasi. I will suggest to the Government particularly to the Minister of Communications and Works, that—

Mr. BRAIMAH: On a point of order. It is not true Sir, provision is made for Mampong also.

Mr. KUSI: Mr. Chairman, I did not see that in this Development, and shall welcome the Minister to reply to my submission. I will also suggest to the Government that when they are drawing the Development Plan they must look round all sections of the country and take into consideration the most important places of the country. They must not concentrate on only one town. We have so many towns in Ashanti—Offinso, Mampong, Bekwai, Kwaso, Kwamo, Ejisu, Berekum, Akropong, etc., etc., which are not covered by the Development Plan. There is no reason why the Minister should neglect these places and make provision only

[MR. KUSI]

for Kumasi. I will go on criticising your Development Plan and if nothing is done in the next year's Estimates, I think the Minister will not have it easy in this room.

Then the question of electricity in Kumasi. The Honourable Member for Wenchi has made a special reference to the Government's neglect of this part of the country. It is most serious, especially Suame which is about two or four yards from the joint of the Theological College and the Syrians Club in Kumasi. These places have got electricity whereas Suame is being neglected—a distance of about four or five yards. You are neglecting these people; are they not tax-payers? They are tax-payers. So Mr. Chairman, I am suggesting to the Minister that it is a very serious matter and he must go into it and make provision for all these places in Kumasi. Suame must be considered.

And then the Kumasi Hospital. The Minister said that when all the phases are completed, there will not be electricity for the running of the hospital. This is another awkward situation. A mighty hospital costing £2,000,000, and when this hospital is completed there is no provision for electricity! How do you expect the doctors to work efficiently? You must make provision for electricity as quickly as possible.

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: On a point of order. They will have their own plant.

MR. KUSI: It has got to be borne by the Government and it is the responsibility of the Government to provide—

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Address the Chair.

MR. KUSI: I am addressing the Chair. I want to warn the Government Chief Whip to be more responsible. Everyday in Kumasi, lights are off and I want the Minister to investigate into the cause. Especially at the house where I am staying, you have got to buy a candle everyday, at any time the lights are off. And even the tenants at the back of the House where I live always say that it is because I have resigned from the C.P.P. that my lights are being cut off and I told them that this is not true (*laughter*). It is due to—I would not say inefficiency of the department—(*not heard*). I am suggesting very seriously to the Minister to check on the position. We want the Minister to be very serious; he must not tell us that because of lack of materials, equipment or shortage of staff he would not supply us with these things.

MR. DADSON: When we talk about electricity, I am convinced that there are some people who should be paid some tribute and they are the Mines. We know the Mines in this country to be supplying their villages with electricity and in fact, this is an essential amenity to the people of the country who pay taxes

[MR. DADSON]

to the Government. Such things as the Mines do are always a challenge to the Government and I would like at this stage to seize the opportunity to pay some tribute to the Mines for being able to supply Tarkwa with electricity long before the Government put down their machinery. And since installation was made at Tarkwa, the Government Tarkwa New Layout has suffered from want of electricity. The Tarkwa New Layout immediately adjoins the Old Town, but yet we have not got electricity there. I do not know if the Minister is aware of any difficulty in the way of establishing a branch there. I would ask the Minister to go into this matter seriously, and find out what is the trouble that precludes the New Layout of Tarkwa from enjoying electricity supply. When you come to Accra—Members have been saying that Accra has been enjoying lights without a break. But I would here say that some part of Adabraka in Accra—I think the Southern part of Adabraka—is having a very poor supply of electricity; I do not know what is the trouble. I would rather like to use candles instead of using electricity light in Adabraka. Especially when the cinemas set to move, you just cannot see anything when you put on your electric light. It is a shame if anybody comes from outside the Gold Coast and finds that this is the type of electric light we are using here. Therefore we invite the Minister to manage to come down one night and visit some of the homes that are lighted in some parts of the city; and he will find that it is a pity that the type of lights they use at night are dull. In order to give chance to some Honourable Members to be able to speak I would call the attention of the Minister to this one fact. We have been told not to be personal and I think we are trying to observe that point.

The First Rural Member for Akim Abuakwa said the other day when he gave a speech in this House that we were happy to find that by some means we have been able to save some money through putting Africans at the head of departments, and here is a case in point. The head of this department is an African and I think since he took office, he has been discharging his duty with efficiency. As a matter of fact, at least we have not heard that there is anything wrong up to this time; he is acting at the moment, but when the need comes that this office should be given permanent staff, we remind the Minister that he should be confirmed to take that appointment.

MR. BENSAH: Four new engines are due to be added to the electric engines in Swedru. Is it not a fact that the Minister has not forgotten his promise to extend the electricity supply to Agona Swedru?

MR. OFORI ATTA: The first question is this. What is wrong with our electricity system. I mean, you go to a place like the United Kingdom, and you will never see these black-outs.

[MR. OFORI ATTA]

But here, even in Accra, the best electricity system we have in the country, sometimes when you are busy at work—you have an appointment to do a certain piece of work the lights go out completely the whole night; and sometimes in the morning you want to do something (*interruption*) there are some women who are sewing with electricity and the lights go out, so that they lose their trade. Is that thing going to happen or have you found a solution for it? It is very bad and it shows that we are still backward and that should not happen. The second point is this. You promised in your Estimates of 1952 that you would supply Asamankese with some electricity, and there was provision for an order for plant and things of that nature; may I know what the situation is at the present?

DR. ANSAH KOI: I would like to speak about electricity supply in Koforidua, New Juaben. At present the lighting there is not good at all. Even yesterday, when it was heavily raining and the atmosphere was dull and gloomy, about five o'clock, I had to get a candle when I was attending a patient to enable me to see. There was no electricity in the whole of the town. I hope the Minister will supply electricity throughout the day as well as the night, otherwise it is hampering the progress of work. You fancy a doctor attending to the life of a patient and cannot get light to see. It is rather dangerous. I hope the Minister will see that medical practitioners who attend patients during the day time as well as in the night, get adequate supply of electricity. I would also like to bring a point to the notice of the Minister about electric lighting in Akwapim.

12.15 p.m.

We find that we have got electric light as far as to Aburi and I think this service could be extended even to Mampong. And then lastly, to help the Ministry to electrify the rural areas, may I suggest that some sort of subsidy to the Local Councils should be made so that they should have plants. At Larteh, the Presbyterian community have their own electric plant to light the Presbyterian Church and the neighbouring areas and this plant is under a young man of about 20 or 26 years who did not go to England to qualify; he learnt it at home and he has managed it all right. If the Local Councils can have some subsidy to help them to get plants, they can get "Electrical Engineers" to manage them and get many of these local areas electrified.

MR. J. K. LAMPTEY: Mr. Chairman, we in Sekondi are rather fortunate in that we were the first to get electricity in this country and I think we are pulling our weight; but it seems to me there is need for more scholarships for Engineers to train to become Electrical Engineers. But the remuneration is not very attractive, not attractive at all. Consider the present Acting

[MR. KWESI LAMPTEY]

Head; he was the first African Engineer in this country and the first African Electrical Engineer and if you go into the history of this man you will find that he has suffered a lot. He was even made a Leading Artisan. He was the first to qualify at Faraday House and it took him years and years and years before he came to this position. Therefore I would suggest very strongly that Africans should be trained to become Electrical Engineers and that we must have an eye on the present Acting Head too and see that he is encouraged because he is trying to do his best. I have just received a note about what happened last Saturday and I am satisfied, I am satisfied particularly as he is taking immediate steps to see that everything is smoothed out.

And finally, I would say that in many cases it takes a very long time before metres are read and I am very pleased to find that the Minister is asking for about six or more Metre Readers but still they are not enough. I would suggest that more Metre Readers are employed but it looks as if the Metre Readers themselves are not coming because some of them have not got bicycles and they have to travel all along the town and I understand that there are over 8,000 metres in Accra alone and they have only four Metre Readers. How can they cope with a thing like that when they have no motor bicycles and so on? Something has got to be done to see that our metres are read at the correct time.

MR. ATTA MENSAH: Mr. Chairman, in winding up for the Ministry I have this to say. The Honourable Member for Wenchi made reference to the extension of electricity supply in Kumasi to the various suburban areas. He made reference to Aboabo, Asawasi, Suntreso and others. The fact of the whole case is this. It is the intention of the Electricity Department to make extensions of the electricity supply on the present site. There was a controversy on this issue between the Town and Country Planning Board and the Electricity Department. They over-ruled the idea of the Electricity Department making new extension on the present site. The matter at long last has been over-ruled by the Minister of Local Government and Housing and steps are now being taken to make extensions on the present site. As such, orders have been placed and we hope to supply Kumasi with electricity as soon as possible.

MR. B. F. KUSI: Mr. Chairman, I want to know when the order was placed.

MR. ATTA MENSAH: I say the order has been placed. If the Honourable Member will come to my Ministry I will satisfy him.

The same Honourable Member also made a suggestion that Engineers should be spared to pay special visits to Local Councils having electric plants. I think the Honourable Member is aware that at the moment we are short of Engineers. Steps are being taken to train more.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Train more!

MR. ATTA MENSAH: I do not think at the moment it will be in the best interest of the country to spare our Engineers.

MR. J. KODZO: Mr. Chairman, I understand there are many Electrical Engineers in the French area. Have you ever applied to them to work on contract to run these machines for us?

MR. J. A. BRAIMAH: We have made advertisements and we are awaiting applicants.

MR. BEDIAKO POKU: The Engineer at Kumasi travels to Mampong which is the constituency of the Ministerial Secretary. If he goes there, I would like him to go to Wenchi also. If not, he should not go.

MR. ATTA MENSAH: He also made mention of a cinema at Aboabo. It will be the duty of the Ministry to go into this matter and give it a special consideration.

The Third Northern Territories Member also made mention of the extension of electricity to the Northern Territories. I would like to call attention of all Honourable Members that before these supplies are made we have to satisfy ourselves that they will be an economic proposition.

Then the Member for Anlo said he wanted an assurance from Government as to when an Electrical Engineer would be stationed at Keta. The Honourable Member has been pesting our lives in the Ministry with this question and he has been making noise in this House to the same effect.

MR. QUASHIE: On a point of order. I object strongly to the statement of the Ministerial Secretary. I was not pesting his life and unnecessarily making noise in this House; but I demanded what my people asked for.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Uproar! Withdraw, withdraw.

MR. ATTA MENSAH: I withdraw, Mr. Chairman.

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: Was he pesting your life?

MR. ATTA MENSAH: The point is that on the 16th of this month, an Engineer was sent to Keta so you can now tell your people.

My Honourable Friend from Upper Denkyira was trying to make an inference that somebody was sent to England by this department to be trained and when he came he was still an Artisan. The fact is that that man was not sent to qualify as an Engineer, he was an artisan and was sent for further experience. He has gained the experience and he is now working as a Leading Artisan.

[MR. ATTA MENSAH]

The Honourable the Third Member for Eastern Akan Group also made reference to subsidy to Local Councils. That is a matter for the Ministry of Local Government.

Also, my Honourable Friend the Second Rural Member for Akim Abuakwa made reference to Asamankese. The fact is, at the moment we are short of Electrical Engineers. We have advertised for two posts and immediately we have got one, he will be sent to Asamankese to start investigations.

MR. WILLIAM OFORI ATTA: If I pest your life in your office and make noise here, will you give Asamankese an Electrical Engineer?

MR. BRAIMAH: As I said in my opening speech, provision has been made to carry on with this Asamankese scheme during the planning period.

MR. AWUMA: Since this Ministry is not able to produce Electrical Engineers, would it not be in the interest of the country if the Minister or his delegate will go round the world and recruit Engineers either from Japan or from America or anywhere else?

MR. BRAIMAH: I have already stated that a training scheme has been drawn up and it will be implemented very soon to train Engineers. I do not believe in going round the world trying to recruit staff. The Engineers will be recruited through the proper channels.

MR. ATTA MENSAH: My Honourable Friend the Ministerial Secretary for Commerce also asked the Government whether when the new engines for Swedru arrive, there will be extensions to the various neighbouring villages.

I can assure the Honourable Member that when they arrive and we find that it is economic they will be extended to the rural areas.

I hope Honourable Members will agree with me that all that they have said will be taken into consideration.

An Honourable Member also said that it has been brought to his notice that when the Kumasi Hospital is opened, there will be no electricity supply. That statement is quite inaccurate. I made it quite clear that when we have been able to make extensions on the new site, Kumasi Hospital will be the first on the list.

In Tarkwa too, the new layout is in progress. We have been making extensions. All that Honourable Members have said will be taken into consideration.

MR. JANTUAH: Almost every two months in Kumasi, there is someone electrocuted either by the falling of a wire or when labourers are climbing up the poles to repair these wires. I want to know what the Government do when such a thing

[MR. JANTUAH]

happens, whether the Government appoint a Commission into the accident to find whether it was the fault of the department or the fault of the person electrocuted?

MR. ATTA MENSAH : I think when such things happen enquiries are always held.

MR. JANTUAH : What happens to the dependants of the workers? Are they given any compensation?

MR. ATTA MENSAH : I will go into the matter.

MR. J. K. LAMPTEY : Mr. Chairman, I move that the question be now put.

The question:

- (i) " That the sum of £606,200 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Electricity Department shall stand part of the Schedule "
- (ii) " That the sum of £291,550 provided in the Third Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Electricity Department shall stand part of the Schedule ",

was put, and agreed to.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Audit Department

MINISTER OF FINANCE (MR. R. P. ARMITAGE):
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move:

" That the sum of £61,680 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Audit Department shall stand part of the Schedule "

The Audit Department as Honourable Members know, is responsible for the examination of all the Public Accounts including those of the Railway, Takoradi Harbour with the other ports, the Post Office Savings Bank and for reporting on these accounts to the Governor and those reports are then referred to this Assembly. The Assembly now has a Public Accounts Committee which examines that report. It is in fact one of the special duties charged on the Public Accounts Committee so to do.

12.30 p.m.

In addition the department audits the accounts of a number of semi-official bodies and in particular it is responsible for auditing the accounts of Local Authorities. There are now something like 270 Local and District Councils in place of the old Local Authorities,

[MR. ARMITAGE]

and the department does its best to examine these accounts twice a year. There is a great difficulty in getting experienced and trained staff for these various Councils. The result is that the staff of the department has to take a preponderating share of the work of preparing the annual accounts of these Local Councils, and in particular of giving advice to the staff in the Local Council Offices. Under the Local Councils Ordinance, the Auditor is specially charged with investigating cases where it is considered that things have gone wrong and exercising his powers of surcharge, disallowance and holding enquiries to which witnesses can be called.

The Audit Officers are responsible for running the courses of instructions in accounts at the Local Government School, a very arduous task but an extremely important one if the staff of the Local Councils are to be properly trained in their accounting duties. This involves the setting of a course of lectures, the devising of papers for the pupils to take and for marking them in the middle of the course and at the end.

The Ministry of Local Government have also asked the department to take over the auditing of the accounts of the four municipalities. The gross expenditure of these municipalities is in the region of a £1 million a year now, and this again will be a very heavy burden on this department.

Owing to shortage of staff there has been no continuous training scheme operating in the department, but it is proposed during the course of the year to institute a regular training scheme which will operate throughout the year.

In the draft Estimates, the establishment is shewn; the senior establishment is shewn as comprising 24 posts. Of these 16 are held by overseas officers, 6 by Africans and there is one vacancy under the existing establishment. But there are three new posts which are being created and all these three posts will be filled by Africans. I beg to move.

Motion made, and question proposed.

MR. OFORI ATTA: I have a few questions to ask the Minister. The first one is really a question, and it is this. What do the Government do with the Auditor's Report on the Accountant-General's finances? I have read several back copies of the Auditor's Report, and I find that they make the same criticisms against the Accountant-General, and every year they repeat the same criticisms. It really shows that we have not a machinery for ensuring that our finances are properly managed. To some extent it is not the Government's fault. We have established a Public Accounts Committee and I am very very sorry to say that we do not feel the work of the Public Accounts Committee. I do not know whether

[MR. OFORI ATTA]

there is something wrong with the organic constitution, but our main work as a Gold Coast Legislative Assembly is to see that the people's monies are properly used and properly accounted for. That service is not being performed by us at all. We pass these Estimates, and it is all right that we pass these Estimates, but when we pass these Estimates there must be a way of checking the expenditure of these huge sums. And I personally feel that the Audit Department must be raised in status. It is a big department; it must be made absolutely independent even of the Governor. It may be under the Legislature, if you cannot find anybody to look after it. But it must be absolutely independent of every Civil Servant in this country. It must therefore have to examine every particular person in this country including the highest person in the Civil Service. In Britain it is under the Legislature and the Audit Department works in close co-operation with the Public Accounts Committee. I am appealing therefore to the Minister that Government should review this position and try to raise the Audit Department to an independent status.

The Director of Audit who goes to the Public Works Department, to the Information Services and to all these departments to audit the accounts of these heads of departments is receiving £2,100 the same amount of money as any ordinary head of department. I do not think that is fair. We want a highly qualified person to man the Audit Department. We also want men of high integrity and men who will be able to be independent because of their raised status. And therefore I really appeal to the Government that it is good economy to pay high salaries to the Audit Department. Raise all of them up, the Director of Audit, his Deputy, and all persons engaged in the Audit Department must feel that in this country they are doing very important service and that they should be paid for it. In this connection I would like to say that this department has done great service to the Native Authorities and I am sure it will continue to serve the authorities which have superseded the Native Authorities. They have been very helpful and in my State they have made a great contribution to the modernization and reorganisation of their accounts.

MR. QUASHIE: The training scheme of this department: In 1948 one Mr. H. V. Cussack, former Director of this department in this country, but now the Deputy Director-General of Colonial Audit in the United Kingdom, drew up a training scheme for all the Colonies. This scheme asked all the Colonies for secondment of Africans to the Home Office in the United Kingdom. Because he was in the Gold Coast, he said this scheme should be started in the Gold Coast. But here I agree with the Second Rural Member for Akim Abuakwa that the department is not completely independent. The Gold Coast Government through the Secretariat refused to

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allow Africans to be seconded to the Head Office in the United Kingdom. This was contained in a document sent to the Director-General in England on the 19th of November, 1948. I quote:

“ Secretariat officials made it quite clear yesterday that the period of secondment should not exceed two years ”, and the Director went on to say that:

“ these officers thought the remunerations provided for in the scheme were too high for these Africans when seconded to the Head Office in England ”.

What were the remunerations? It is only stated that when an African is under 16 years he should receive £150 per annum plus overseas pay of £100; when he is 18 years, £170; 19 years £190 and if he is 25 years £300 plus an extra duty allowance of eight per cent of the consolidated salary.

Well, the Gold Coast refused to accept this nice scheme; Nigeria, Jamaica and the other Colonies accepted it with the result that to-day in Nigeria we have Mr. Williams and Mr. Ghansah and other people acting as Senior Auditors in the Audit Department of Nigeria and also in Jamaica. In 1952-53 it was decided that one Senior Auditor by name Mr. Nicol be appointed to take charge of training in the department. But to-day he is at Kumasi. It is understood that as the Minister has just told us there are three vacancies for Senior Executive Officers and these three Senior Executive Officers are to be posted to the municipalities to deal with municipal accounts; one at Accra, one at Kumasi and one to look after the accounts of Cape Coast and Sekondi-Takoradi. One would ask, what about a vast area like the Trans-Volta Togoland Region? Or there is not going to be an officer there at all? And what about the Northern Territories? The Minister told us also that these officers in this department do try to help the Local Councils and to train their employees in accounting systems. There are at present, as I understand, three vacancies for Assistant Auditors. These could be filled by men from among the nine Higher Executive Officers who have been doing the same sort of work in the department. If you turn to page 27 of the Estimates, you will find that under Item 8 there are 56 Executive Officers, but actually there are only 26 Executive Officers in that department. The remaining 30 Officers are paid only as Clerical Officers. And I do not see the reason why the Minister should come to ask us for £11,000 to pay these people, because they are paid as Clerical Officers and not as Higher Executive or Executive Officers. He can check that up. Officers in this department, especially the Africans, do a lot of trekking lasting sometimes for three months. As Honourable Members are probably aware, two officers returned from the Akim Abuakwa district the other day. One is now lying in the hospital with cerebro-spinal meningitis and another with typhoid fever. And you will remember also that in 1951 too one died at

12.45 p.m.

[MR. QUASHIE]

Akuse with typhoid fever and in 1952 one was admitted for a period of nine months with typhoid fever or something like one of those endemic fevers. When these Africans go on trek the Government do not take it upon themselves to find accommodation for them. But the expatriate officers are provided with bungalows or rest-houses. For example, an expatriate officer came to Keta; there was no accommodation available for him, but the Government Agent was able to provide him with accommodation at Denu, 16 miles from Keta, and this expatriate officer drew mileage allowance for being housed at Denu, 16 miles away, and he spent about a month there. But they do not care at all about the housing problems facing the junior staff and I think this is very bad indeed, especially now that the Local Councils come to supersede the old Native Administration—you will remember that the Native Authorities were about 100 in the country but the Local Councils are about 270 now—and these people have to go round to check their accounts. Now look at the number of small villages these people have to go to to do this checking; I feel the Minister should see to it—I say the Minister because I see the department is not entirely independent because the Secretariat has its thumb on it—and do something about it.

In September every year the Annual Reports of this department are always signed but in 1951-52 there was no report at all. If there was no report at all for 1951-52 what do you expect in 1952-53? And that makes the work of the Public Accounts Committee a bit difficult.

The Lidbury Report recommended that an Assistant Auditor should be attached to the Post Office Savings Bank. The increasing loss of Government money is mainly due to the fact that these recommendations are not implemented at all. Also there was a case at Asamankese the other day involving misappropriation of £3,200. Under Gold Coast Laws Cap. 78, the Government Agent at Kibi is the prescribed officer who should check the accounts of this particular area but due to negligence of duty he did not perform his duty, even though he was drawing the emoluments and the various allowances attached to this post. The result is that the Clerk in charge of the accounts was able to defraud the Government of £3,200. I do not know if this Government Agent is still free or is being punished by the Government or is being brought before the Court; because he has been drawing emoluments and allowances which under normal circumstances he should not draw at all. I want to repeat it once more that I think it will repay this country many times over if we set aside some heavy sum of money every year to spend on supernumerary Assistant Auditors recruited from

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the Higher Executive posts and from the Executive posts, who show special promise. As I told you the other day I do not doubt failures, but expect higher reward from it.

The revenue collected in Kumasi alone exceeds that collected in Kano but the number of officers in the Audit Department in Kano is double the number of Audit Officers in the whole of Ashanti; so this department is really under-staffed, and the officers are not well treated at all. First of all, they are not independent, which they must be. Then there are so many vacancies in the department and there are no publications coming out in the *Gazette* about these vacancies so that our secondary scholars who have left schools could be attracted to this department.

With these few points, I wish the Minister and the Committee to take the necessary steps to see that first of all the Public Accounts Committee work hand-in-hand with the Audit Department and that the staff of the Audit Department be increased and authority given to these people; and then the salary scale of the officers in the department should be increased as suggested by the Second Rural Member for Akim Abuakwa.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS (rose)—

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: On a point of order. Is the Minister not winding up? Because if we are not careful we may not finish and tomorrow is the last day.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have three Heads more.

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: Mr. Chairman, I move that the question be now put.

MR. BEDIAKO POKU: I second the motion.

MR. ARMITAGE: Mr. Chairman, if you will allow, I will wind up.

MR CHAIRMAN: I call on you to wind up.

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: Then I withdraw my motion.

MR. ARMITAGE: Mr. Chairman, dealing with the last Honourable Member who was suggesting that the staff of this department should be increased, and also the salaries, I am not sure that I am very gratified to hear this. This Assembly has a duty to control expenditure on the Civil Service and the Government generally, and I do feel that he has made a very wide and sweeping suggestion which we should not attend to. I think he must be inaccurate when he said there is no Audit Report for 1951-52, because—

MR. QUASHIE: There was only 1950-51 Report; you can check that up.

MR. ARMITAGE: I will check it up because I am pretty certain that there was one the other day.

I know that the Junior Staff do have difficulty at times on trek. I am told that wherever possible the District Treasury Staff are asked to make arrangements for them to be put up when they go to these Local Councils to examine their accounts. It does need the continual provision of more and more rest-house accommodation so that these people when on trek can have easier time when they are going round.

I know that there are vacancies in this department but also there are promotions to be made which are now I understand in the course of being made. I think that is why certain people who have been carrying out the work of Executive Officer and Higher Executive Officer have not yet been paid as such because the result of the examination held recently may not have yet been published but the Audit Department did get permission to hold its own examination and there should be promotions very soon. I can assure the Honourable Member that everything will be done to get vacancies filled. We do want to see that they are all filled.

The Honourable the Second Rural Member for Akim Abuakwa referred to the independence of the Audit Department. This is another stage of our gradual progress and the adoption of modern practices. We have practically in draft a Bill which will establish the post of Auditor and so on independent of the Government (hear! hear!!) and I hope that later this year that Bill will be coming before this Assembly.

I am glad that the Honourable Member did pay tribute to the work of this department for what it has done for the Native Authorities. I am quite certain that the Native Authorities would never have got to the stage they did without this department and if all goes well it will also occupy itself with training the staff of the Local Authorities. I am convinced that the Public Accounts Committee of this Assembly has got to be made a really live and critical body. If there is anything I can do to assist them I will do it. But I must remind Honourable Members that it is composed of Members of this Assembly—I think it includes a number of the most critical Members of this Assembly—and if they cannot get together and put in some collective criticism I do not think anything I do is going to organise them into any activity. I do ask Members of that Committee to see that they hold regular meetings. I will give them all the help my Ministry can and the Director of Audit is already working with them and is ready to assist them, as in the United Kingdom, to the best of his ability.

MR. KODZO: The Minister said that the Committee submitted a report to the Government and I want to know the whereabouts of that report; it ought to have been laid on the table. I know that the negligence is with the Government and we want the report to be laid on the table.

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: The Chairman is—

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Sit down! Shame! Stooge!

MR. ARMITAGE: I will trace this report and I will see what has happened to it and if it is ready to be laid on the table I will see that it is laid on it.

MR. B. DIMONGSO (PIBRA-NA): Mr. Chairman, on point of order. I want to find out from the Minister as to who checks or audits the Audit Department (*laughter*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, I will now put the question.

The question:

“ That the sum of £61,680 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Audit Department shall stand part of the Schedule ”,

was put, and agreed to.

The House resumed.

MR. DADSON: Mr. Speaker, before we close I want to draw attention to the fact that the fans in this room are not very serviceable at all, and whoever is responsible should have his attention called to them. They do not move at all. We do not get the services of the fans at all.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall speak to the attendant.

The House adjourned at 1 o'clock to Tuesday the 24th of March, 1953, at 9 o'clock.

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 24TH MARCH, 1953

The House resumed at 9 a.m.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair).

PRAYERS

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 23rd March, 1953, were confirmed.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Appointment of Land Boundary Commissioner

50. NII KWABENA BONNE III asked the Minister of Defence and External Affairs:

- (a) Is it a fact that Judge Jackson has been appointed Land Boundary Commissioner on contract?
If so, are Government aware that the Joint Provincial Council sitting at Cape Coast has resolved that they would not co-operate with him?
- (b) In the event of Government appointing him, I would like to know whether the Government would be prepared to accept full responsibility in case any riot or disturbances were to occur during his term of office as Boundary Commissioner?

MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR DEFENCE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (MR. E. NORTON-JONES):

- (a) Yes, Sir. This is a matter which by the terms of the Gold Coast Constitution is vested in His Excellency's discretion.
The Government are not aware, save for the assertion to that effect in the question that the Joint Provincial Council has seen fit to resolve as suggested.
- (b) Is a hypothetical question which under Standing Order No. 29 (e) of the House does not call for a reply, but the Government are of course always responsible for the maintenance of law and order.

MR. J. K. LAMPTEY: Is the Land Boundary Commissioner a Civil Servant or a Judge?

MR. NORTON-JONES: I need notice of that question.

NII KWABENA BONNE III: Has Mr. Jackson retired as a Judge from the Colony?

MR. NORTON-JONES: I understand, Sir, that Mr. Jackson has asked the permission of Her Majesty to retire.

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: Can a Judge sign contract with the Government?

MR. NORTON-JONES: I must have notice, Sir.

NENE AZZU MATE KOLE: In view of the fact that a Boundary Settlement Commissioner has a lot to do with Chiefs in this country, have the Government assured themselves that this appointment is going to be popular with the Chiefs of the country?

MR. NORTON-JONES: The appointment, Sir, will always be in the Governor's discretion.

DR. ANSAH KOI: In view of the resolution from the Joint Provincial Council, will the Minister assure us that the Government will advise the Governor to replace Mr. Jackson?

MR. NORTON-JONES: I will give no such assurance.

NII KWABENA BONNE III: Since his retirement has Mr. Jackson drawn his gratuity?

MR. NORTON-JONES: I believe that he has.

Free Quarters for Government Employees

276. MR. N. B. ABUBEKR asked the Minister of Defence and External Affairs:

- (a) What categories of Government employees are entitled to free quarters?
- (b) Is it a fact that Nurses in the Northern Territories who normally would not have paid rent for quarters in the South are paying rent for occupying Government quarters?

MR. NORTON-JONES:

- (a) At the moment the following Government employees who are required to reside in a public building or other Government quarters when it is in the interest of Government that they should be readily accessible on the premises by day or by night are allowed such quarters free of rent:

Policemen

Prison Warders and Guards

Lighthouse Keepers

Dispensers

Nurses

Subordinate officials residing at Government Agricultural stations.

(b) As the enquiry covers all stations in the Northern Territories and in the Colony where there are Government Hospitals I am instituting enquiries and will transmit a written statement of the facts in due course to the Rural Member for Adansi.

MR. ABUBEKR: Will the Government give an undertaking that when they have found out that any of these Civil Servants who should have been exempted from the payments of rent have paid rent, they will get their rent refunded?

MR. NORTON-JONES: If the circumstances justify, I will give the matter sympathetic consideration.

MR. ABAVANA (rose)—

MR. SPEAKER: Next answer.

Dismissals from the Police Force

MR. ABUBEKR: If the Minister will answer this question I will put it.

Mr. Yeboah Aukordieh

TO THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:

292. How many Policemen have been dismissed since the past five years? Will the Minister give the House the number in each year and the cause of the dismissal in each case?

MR. NORTON-JONES: 321 Non-Commissioned Officers and Constables were dismissed from the Police in the five years—31 in 1948, 66 in 1949, 59 in 1950, 75 in 1951 and 90 in 1952. The causes included one case of malingering, six of absence from duty, 50 of drunkenness, and 90 of gross misconduct; in 92 cases the cause was a conviction by the Courts, and there were a number of other reasons. I would not wish to inflict on the House a full recital of the details in each of the 321 cases, but if there is any further information which particularly interests the Honourable Member I shall try to give it to him.

9.15 a.m.

*Relationship between the Gold Coast Regiment
and Her Majesty's Forces*

302. MR. J. E. JANTUAH asked the Minister of Defence and External Affairs what is the nature of the relation existing between the Gold Coast Regiment and the United Kingdom Forces?

MR. E. NORTON-JONES: It is not clear what information precisely the Honourable Member seeks. The relationship between the Gold Coast Regiment and Her Majesty's Forces in the United Kingdom is in peace time little more than one of comradeship, but it is also true that there is general uniformity between the two in matters of procedure, equipment and training so far as this is permitted by variant factors of geography, climate and utilisation. There is also an interchange of personnel insofar as men of the Gold Coast Regiment proceed for training to units and institutions of Her Majesty's Forces in the United Kingdom, while men of the latter are seconded for employment with the Regiment.

MR. JANTUAH: At whose instance has the Boys' Company been formed, the Gold Coast Government or the United Kingdom Government?

MR. NORTON-JONES: Did I hear you say the Boys' Company?

MR. JANTUAH: Yes, Sir.

MR. NORTON-JONES: Of the Gold Coast Government.

MR. JANTUAH: Is it correct to suggest that the relation between Her Majesty's Forces in the United Kingdom and the Gold Coast would be impaired if an African Minister took over the Ministry of Defence and External Affairs?

MR. NORTON-JONES: I do not know the answer to that one.

Attendance of Local ex-Servicemen at the Coronation

353. MR. A. ASUMDA asked the Minister of Defence and External Affairs whether members of the Local ex-Servicemen would be attending the Coronation in London either on their own or at the invitation of Government?

MR. NORTON-JONES: Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom has not as yet issued any official invitation to ex-Servicemen to attend the Coronation celebrations in London from overseas. The British Empire Service League, to which the Gold Coast Legion is affiliated, has however indicated that it has accepted responsibility for assisting such overseas ex-Servicemen as do attend and has been asked whether such responsibility extends to providing the financial assistance towards passages which the Gold Coast Legion is unable to find. No further information is yet available in this connection but the Honourable Member will be glad to know that the substantial military contingent representing the Gold Coast at the Coronation will be composed of men who saw active service in the World War of 1939-45.

MR. ASUMDA: Is it a fact that the Nigerian Government have been asked to send ten representatives to Her Majesty's Coronation? If so why were the Gold Coast Government asked to send only four official representatives?

MR. NORTON-JONES: I have no information on that matter.

Allocation of Seats at the Coronation

354. MR. ASUMDA:

- (a) How many individual applications were received by the Coronation Committee for seats at the Coronation in London?
- (b) How many of these have been allocated seats?

MR. NORTON-JONES:

- (a) Up to November 30th, 1952 when application list was first closed, 134 individual applications were received for seats along the Coronation Procession route in London. The application list was reopened in December and a further 43 individual applications have been received. The total number of applications is therefore 177.
- (b) All the 134 persons who applied before the 30th November have been allocated seats. A ballot will be held in March to allocate the remaining seats amongst the 43 applicants who have applied since the 30th November.

MR. ASUMDA: Is there any difficulty for these 134 representatives in getting accommodation in London?

MR. NORTON-JONES: My Ministry, Sir, through the Colonial Office and the Gold Coast Commissioner will always be willing to assist Gold Coast citizens in obtaining accommodation in London or in the neighbourhood of London.

Anloga Riots

355. MR. ASUMDA:

- (a) What were the causes of the Anloga riots?
- (b) How many of the citizens in Anloga lost their lives and properties in the riots?

MR. NORTON-JONES:

- (a) It appears that the Anloga riots were the culmination of a long period of internal dissension over the payment of local dues, and arose immediately because certain persons opposed in principle to the payment of any Local Council rate endeavoured physically to prevent more enlightened citizens from meeting their proper obligations in this regard.

- (b) It has so far been established that one local councillor has been killed and that one headman has disappeared in circumstances which suggest foul play. Both events took place before the arrival of the Police, and investigations are now proceeding. Both victims were known publicly to have supported payment of the Local Council rate.

55 private houses and a large part of the Zion College at Anloga were burnt by rioters before the arrival of the Police; no subsequent cases of arson have been reported.

MR. ASUMDA: Will the Government give some compensation either to those who have sustained losses to their property or the deceased parents?

MR. NORTON-JONES: The matter is receiving the attention of the Government.

MR. LAMPTEY: Are the circumstances in which these people were killed similar to Mau Mau? (*Laughter*).

The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

362. MR. DADSON: In order to ensure the impartiality of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and to prevent him from looking up to Civil Servants for promotion would Government consider making him responsible only to the Legislative Assembly as is the case in the United Kingdom where the Clerk of the House of Commons is responsible only to the Speaker and the House of Commons?

MR. NORTON-JONES: The Government agrees that the status of the staff of the Speaker's Office needs examination but considers that such examination should more appropriately take place when this Assembly is considering constitutional changes at its June meeting.

MR. BEDIAKO POKU: The Clerk was employed on contract for a year; the time was due in January last. May I know his present position?

MR. NORTON-JONES: Certain letters have recently passed between Mr. Speaker and my office.

MR. DADSON: Who controls the Office of the Speaker? Is it the Prime Minister or the Minister of Defence and External Affairs?

MR. NORTON-JONES: I would say it is Mr. Speaker.

MR. OFORI ATTA: Does it mean Sir, that the Clerk of the Assembly is the head of his own department, and his status is equal to that of a Permanent Secretary?

MR. NORTON-JONES: I should want notice on that question. (*Laughter*).

Police Post for Kenyasi No. 1 in Ahafo Area

365. MR. KUSI: Will the Minister consider providing Kenyasi No. 1 in the Ahafo area of Kumasi West Rural with a Police post as the inhabitants are prepared to provide a site for Police Barracks?

MR. NORTON-JONES: I am grateful to the people of Kenyasi No. 1 for the offer of a site for a Police post, but I am afraid that the Development Plan approved by this House did not include any provision for the construction of a Police post at that place. Only three cases from this area were reported to the Police in each of the past three years, and none of them was serious; in these circumstances, I do not feel able to advise that the Development Plan should be amended to include a Police post there at the cost of some other locality for which provision has already been approved as essential.

MR. J. AYINIBISA: Do the Government encourage crimes before they set up Police in the country?

MR. NORTON-JONES: No, Sir.

MR. KUSI: Will the Minister be prepared to give me an assurance that consideration will be given to the people at Kenyasi No. 1 for the provision of accommodation for the Police?

Radio Kiosk for Ahafo Mim

366. MR. KUSI: Will the Honourable Minister consider providing Ahafo Mim with a radio kiosk in view of the importance of this town?

MR. NORTON-JONES: Until the recommendations of the Broadcasting Commission have been fully considered by the Government it will not be possible for any decision to be made on the possibility of extending the kiosk service. I regret therefore that at the moment I am unable to give any assurance to the Honourable Member.

MR. KUSI: I want to know if the report to be submitted by the Broadcasting Commission will be laid before the Assembly, and will the Assembly be given opportunity to discuss that report?

MR. NORTON-JONES: The answer is in the affirmative, Sir.

MR. BEDIAKO POKU: When will the radio kiosk built at Wenchi be fitted with either a radio loudspeaker or a wireless?

MR. NORTON-JONES: I should require notice of this question.

Service by Government Officers in the Northern Territories

391. MR. SEIDU WALA asked the Minister of Defence and External Affairs whether he is aware that officers who have served for more than five years in the Northern Territories are still there in spite of the Lidbury/Gbedemah Report recommending a minimum stay of four years?

MR. NORTON-JONES: Yes, Sir. The Government will implement this particular recommendation as soon as circumstances permit.

Pensions for Expatriates

410. DR. ANSAH KOI asked the Minister of Defence and External Affairs whether:

- (a) Pensions of expatriates are calculated on basic salary as before or on the consolidated Lidbury/Gbedemah salary, i.e. basic salary plus overseas pay?
- (b) Such pensions are necessarily increased by Lidbury/Gbedemah?

MR. NORTON-JONES:

- (a) A pension is calculated on an officer's pensionable emoluments which consist of his consolidated salary or of his basic salary plus overseas pay. This position has not been altered by the Lidbury/Gbedemah Reports.
- (b) No Sir, but where pensionable emoluments have been increased pensions will also be increased.

DR. ANSAH KOI: May I know from the Minister whether there has been any increase in pensionable emoluments?

MR. NORTON-JONES: Yes, Sir. That follows.

DR. ANSAH KOI: May I know how much has been the increase?

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: Was Overseas Pay pensionable before Lidbury?

MR. NORTON-JONES: Yes, Sir.

Police Station and Quarters at Navrongo

429. MR. ABAVANA asked the Minister of Defence and External Affairs when he intends replacing the dilapidated Police Station and quarters in Navrongo?

MR. NORTON-JONES: The Commissioner of Police intends during the coming financial year to renovate the Police station at Navrongo and to do what he can to make the quarters more attractive and comfortable for the Policemen stationed there. I cannot however promise that the buildings will be replaced with new ones in the near future, because there are no funds available in the Development Plan for such work.

MR. ABAVANA: Is it not a fact that according to Head D.73 of the Development Plan Navrongo was earmarked for a new Police Station? Why are you then telling me that there are no funds for the Police Station?

MR. NORTON-JONES: I have not the book before me, but I believe that the Honourable Member is right.

MR. ABUBEKR: Then why did you give this answer?

MR. ABAVANA: And why did you give me an answer which is completely opposite to what is in the Development Plan since you know that I was right?

MR. NORTON-JONES: New Police Stations have recently been completed at Tamale, Walewale, Bolgatanga, Bawku and Wa, and there is no more money.

MR. ABAVANA: Is it proper that if any particular place is earmarked for either a Police Station or a Hospital, the Director in charge should make use of the money provided in doing something else?

MR. NORTON-JONES: Yes, Sir; with the permission of the Minister, the money can be vired.

Primary Education of Children of African Army Servicemen

436. MR. KWESI LAMPTEY asked the Minister of Defence and External Affairs what steps are Government taking to ensure that children of African Army Servicemen are given primary school education, in view of the fact that family allowance to Army men is not more than 2s. a day?

MR. E. NORTON-JONES: Since all Army units are stationed in the vicinity of the larger towns, African Soldiers have the same opportunity as other citizens of obtaining free education for their children at ordinary primary schools. In addition there are eight schools at the major military centres run by the Army Authorities exclusively for the children of African Servicemen at which no fees are charged.

DR. ANSAH KOI: May I know from the Minister whether this Army school comes under the supervision of the Minister of Education and Social Welfare?

MR. NORTON-JONES: The Army schools are certainly run in consultation with the Ministry of Education.

DR. ANSAH KOI: I understand the children of the expatriates in the Army have their own separate schools? Is that also controlled by the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare?

MR. NORTON-JONES: I should require notice for that, Sir.

STATEMENT ON ROAD POLICY

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS (MR. J. A. BRAIMAH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the table a map showing the capital construction which the Public Works Department, directly or by contract, will be able to undertake on the main trunk road framework before 1956 and the work which will remain until after 1956. Every Honourable Member has already been supplied with a copy of this map. The map shows the whole trunk road framework, and it is the aim of the Government that

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the responsibility of the Public Works Department shall be concentrated on these roads. There is not a great difference in mileage between the road framework shown on this map and the roads for which the Public Works Department has responsibility already. I will describe the differences which exist: Firstly the main road through Togoland from Dzodze to Asikuma junction and thence to the Northern Territories is at present the responsibility of the Regional Organization, similarly most of Northern Territories roads except those marked red on the map and the Sawla-Yendi Road are still maintained by the Regional Organization. These roads will be taken over by the Public Works Department as soon as it is in a position to do so.

There are some 650 miles of minor roads, not shown on the map, at present maintained by the Public Works Department. There are several reasons why it will be necessary for other organizations to assume responsibility for these roads as soon as possible. Firstly, there is the financial factor. For development works the amounts available are limited by the allocations made under the Development Plan. There are no prospects of money becoming available for expenditure by the Central Government for any capital works on roads outside the main trunk framework. Indeed I foresee considerable difficulty in obtaining all the funds needed for the main framework and I am anxious not to dissipate my resources to such an extent that no useful work will be possible anywhere. Annual maintenance costs are increasing as development proceeds and all the sums available to me are needed for the main trunk framework. If I had to spread the money over the whole country many roads would become impassable and few would be maintained adequately. It is agreed by the Roads Advisory Committee that there is no practical alternative to a policy of limiting the responsibility of my Ministry to the main trunk framework.

Secondly, account must be taken of the staff situation and the prospects of recruiting additional engineers. It will take time for the Public Works Department to build up a supervisory organization adequate for the oversight of work on the main trunk framework. The dissipation of limited supervisory capacity over roads outside the framework would result in higher costs and lower standards of work in all parts of the programme undertaken by the department.

Thirdly, it must be noted that agencies exist outside my control and that it would be in keeping with accepted policy to cultivate their more extended use. I have in mind particularly the organs of Local Government.

Having due regard to these factors, to the volume of traffic passing on the various roads of the country as recorded in a census taken just over a year ago, to the nature of the engineering problems presented by each individual road, and to the views of the Roads

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Advisory Committees, the Government have decided that the main trunk framework under my responsibility shall be the roads shown in the map now laid on the table.

I hasten to assure Honourable Members that I shall do my best—to the limit of the finances available—to continue to maintain the 650 miles of road outside this framework which is already maintained by the Public Works Department until such time as other authorities are able to take over these roads, but I must make it quite clear that I cannot undertake on these roads any capital works such as improvements, realignments, widening or any other work beyond normal maintenance.

It is generally acknowledged that Local Government must accept greatly enhanced responsibilities for road construction and maintenance. When this House passed the Local Government Ordinance its action was welcomed—not only in the Gold Coast, but also abroad—as a most progressive step. We all looked forward to the development of strong organs of Local Government, raising revenue on modern up-to-date lines and applying it to the economic and social welfare of the people. We still have the same vision and the same hope, but we perhaps realise better now than when we passed the Ordinance that the process is going to be slow and protracted. There is no quick solution to the financial, technical, and physical problems involved in any policy of handing over responsibility for roads to local authorities. I may perhaps be forgiven for feeling some pride in the fact that the Northern Territories have gone further in this direction than other parts of the Gold Coast.

I have dwelt at some length on the future maintenance of a number of minor roads and I must draw your attention back to the far more important question of the main trunk framework. We are making very considerable progress with work on this framework. The bulk of this work is being undertaken directly by the Public Works Department and by contractors working under the department's supervision. In this case all the preliminary work of survey and design is undertaken by the qualified staff of the department who also have to supervise the work on the ground while it is in progress. Unfortunately there is insufficient staff to tackle all the work I am anxious to do and our resources have therefore been augmented by the employment of Consultants who provide additional survey, design and supervisory staff and so enable us to proceed with work which otherwise could not be done. Again the Public Works Department is ultimately responsible for the success of the work but their burden is very much lightened by the help of consulting engineers of world repute. There has been some misinformed criticism of the work of the consultants and an understandable desire to see more rapid results on the

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ground. Let me tell you what the consultants have done so far. They have 27 road and bridge projects on their programme.

All the exhaustive survey and detailed design work has been completed in the case of the Weija-Winneba Road, a contract has been placed and construction has started. Field survey, location and plotting of the Winneba-Mankessim Road is completed and the London Office of the consultants is preparing the documents for open tenders. For the Accra-Weija Road all the field work is completed and all the drawings are ready. Work is similarly nearly complete on the Suhum-Anyinam, Nsawam-Suhum and Takoradi-Beposo Road surveys. This last mentioned major project will be ready for contract in the financial year 1953-54 and will mark a further stage in the development of the Accra-Takoradi Coast Road. Field work has been completed on the Ankobra bridge and drawings are in London: The work on the bridge across the Ofin near Dunkwa is similarly well advanced. We shall shortly be building bridges at Nasia and Pwalagu for which the consultants have done all the preliminary work. The field work has been completed for the Yapei bridge. I cannot go into detail as to the progress made on all the other projects. Work is in hand on the bridge at mile 102 on the Bolgatanga-Bawku Road, and on the road surveys Asikuma-Bame-Kedjebi, Cape Coast by-pass, Cape Coast-Dunkwa, Akrokeri-Dunkwa and Bolgatanga-Bawku. Fourteen other surveys remain to be undertaken at a later date. In addition to the Weija-Winneba Road, the Prasu-Kumasi and the Prasu-Yamoranza Road contracts are proceeding under the supervision of the consultants.

An immense amount of detailed engineering planning and design is involved in all the work which is being undertaken by the Public Works Department and the consultants. The Gold Coast has never before aimed at such high engineering standards over so large a part of the country's road system. These higher standards are essential if our main roads are to stand up to the present-day volume of traffic but they do involve very substantial expenditure and considerable time both for survey and design and for construction. The careful survey and location of a road can save tens of thousands of pounds in the cost of construction and many more thousands in subsequent maintenance costs, besides contributing immensely to road safety. As for construction itself, not even the most highly mechanised contracting organisation can build long stretches of first class road in a matter of a few weeks.

I have dealt at some length with the programme of engineering survey because the details are not available to Honourable Members in the Estimates or in the published summaries of development expenditure. It is not necessary for me to detail my plans for actual construction work because they are set out in the fourth edition of the financial summaries which have, I understand, been

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circulated to all Honourable Members. The programme can be seen at a glance by reference to the map which I have laid on the table. I should like, however, to make a brief reference to the problem of bridge construction. I have a very considerable programme of replacement of bridges which are below the standards required for present and future traffic loads. I also have a programme for the construction of bridges where there are no bridges at present. For the most part these bridges will replace ferries. A temporary bridge is already in operation at Adiembra where formerly there was a ferry. A bridge has been completed at Kpetoe. I have mentioned the bridges at Ankobra mouth, Dunkwa, Pwalagu, Nasia and Yapei in connection with the survey work of the consultants. The funds allocated to me are estimated at present prices to be sufficient for the construction of bridges at all these places, and at Kade, Abodom and Twifu in the course of the next three years. It may be possible to add to this programme if a proposal to raise loan finance, repayable from bridge tolls, now under examination, proves feasible. Everyone will be glad to see the last of our somewhat antiquated ferries. I fear that we shall have to suffer the continued operation of several of them for a number of years to come, but their number will progressively decline. I feel confident that six or seven ferries will be replaced during the next three years. The replacement of those on the Volta cannot be planned until the full implications of the Volta River Project are apparent, but meanwhile I am taking steps to ensure that there is a marked improvement in those ferry services which cannot be immediately replaced by bridges.

I trust that Honourable Members will realise that the Government's plans for improved road communications have been comprehensive and realistic and that we are now beginning to see their realization. I beg Honourable Members to watch the unfolding of these plans with patience. Rome was not built in a day and engineering works of quality take time. I feel sure that Honourable Members will agree with me that in pursuing the policy of concentrating our efforts on the main trunk framework outlined in the map we should insist on high quality and should not waste money on low class work for the sake of reckless speed.

9.45 a.m.

STATEMENT ON N.Ts. LIQUOR ORDINANCE, CAP. 170

MR. NORTON-JONES: Mr. Speaker, I beg to seek your permission to make a short but important statement.

Yesterday at the time when the First Territorial Member for the Northern Territories was taking me to task because my Ministry had failed to complete arrangements for the repeal of

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Chapter 170, Liquor (Northern Territories), Ordinance a telegram was being received which removed the last obstacle to the initiation of action which he was advocating and which all Members desire.

With the permission of my colleagues I am able now to inform Honourable Members that at the June meeting of this Assembly I shall move for the repeal of Chapter 170. (Hear! Hear! Hear!).

QUESTIONS

MR. BEDIAKO K. POKU: Mr. Speaker, under Standing Order No. 21, I beg to put this urgent question to the Minister of Commerce.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is not here.

MR. POKU: His Ministerial Secretary is here.

MR. SPEAKER: Have you sent me a copy of your questions?

MR. POKU: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Provided he says that he will be able to answer all the questions off-hand you may put them. But I do not think that from the nature of the questions they can be answered off-hand; the Minister will have to make enquiries.

MR. POKU: I think he will be able to give me the answers.

MR. SPEAKER: If he is ready and says he will be able to give you the answers off-hand, I will let you put them. Is he in?

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: He is outside.

MR. SPEAKER: Call him in to answer, please.

MR. WILLIAM OFORI ATTA: Mr. Speaker, in the meantime may I put these few questions to the Minister of Communications and Works on the statement he just made?

MR. SPEAKER: Do you say a few questions?

MR. OFORI ATTA: Only one question (*laughter*). How far have the Government gone to pay compensation to farmers who lost their properties, cocoa trees, cocoyams, and plantains during the cutting of the Swedru-Apegua-Anyinam line?

MR. BRAIMAH: My Ministry has made representations to the Lands Department because the Consultants were anxious to see that compensation was paid as early as possible. It is the Lands Department that is holding up payments. I have asked two days ago what has happened and I will let the Honourable Member know what the present position is.

MR. SPEAKER: Where is the Minister?

MR. POKU: His Ministerial Secretary is here now.

MR. SPEAKER: Have you got a copy of that question? Will you be able to answer it now?

MR. BNSAH: No, Sir. I require notice.

MR. SPEAKER: He says he requires notice.

MR. POKU: I gave notice to the Minister yesterday.

MR. BNSAH: Mr. Speaker, the Minister is not here and I think the matter can be taken up by the Government if the questioner comes to the Ministry.

MR. SPEAKER: From the nature of your question enquiries will have to be made, and I do not see the urgency about it. Send your question to the Clerk.

MR. POKU: I have sent the question to the Clerk. But may I know whether I will get the answer to my question by tomorrow?

MR. SPEAKER: It will go through the usual channels.

COL. BEAN. Mr. Speaker, may the question be read to the House.

MR. SPEAKER: If it is read to you it means it is being put. If it is not going to be put, you may not hear it.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: The Ministerial Secretary might as well answer it.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister cannot answer and I quite agree with him that it is not a question that he can answer off-hand; he has got to make enquiries.

The House at this stage resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

HOUSE IN COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

The Legislature

MINISTER OF FINANCE (MR. R. P. ARMITAGE):
Mr. Chairman, I beg to move:—

“That the sum of £93,490 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Legislature shall stand part of the Schedule”.

The staff of this Office are concerned with two major matters; the running of this Legislative Assembly and the new *Hansard* organisation which enables us to get the daily record of what is said here.

The Office has a full complement of staff; but it is only natural that the experience gained by this reporting organisation, which enables us to get this document which has become the best seller in the Gold Coast, requires the matter to be reconsidered. The preparation of this document requires a comprehensive and accurate

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reporting system. It is clear, and I am sure Honourable Members will agree with me, that the standard of reporting has improved, but there is still some leeway to be made up. But it is very much better than it used to be and we are no longer faced with having to try and deal with many cyclostyled pages, a lot of which were left blank and we were expected to remember two or three months afterwards to fill in what we thought we said. So I think when the session is over, the Clerk together with those responsible, will go into the matter and see exactly what reporting staff is required. In the mean time, I would like here to pay a tribute to the reporting staff and to the staff in the *Hansard* Printing Office for their great work in getting out these publications without having to miss a single day and having it on sale by nine o'clock in the morning so that we can all see it, and the world also.

Turning to the staff of the office, the Clerk was in the United Kingdom for a few weeks for a preliminary course in Parliamentary Procedure arranged for members of Colonial Legislatures by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, at the House of Commons. We did hope that arrangements would be completed to enable him to attend a full four months' course at the House of Commons later this year. But unfortunately it has not been found possible to complete those arrangements.

I think on the whole Honourable Members are fully aware of the duties of the staff of this office and I do not think I need say anything more to explain what they are. Mr. Chairman, I beg to move.

Motion made, and question proposed.

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: We all know that this—I do not know how to call it, a department or Ministry—is the most important because in actual fact, it is expected to be independent and to be responsible for the Government and the Assembly and everything connected with Government in this country. Unfortunately, it seems to me that though the department has been doing extremely well since it was set up, the remunerations attached to the officers in the department are rather meagre compared with those of other departments.

We first of all have to talk of the remuneration of the Speaker. It may be said that the Speaker's salary is fixed by Constitution but I would also say that if we make recommendations, reasonable recommendations, they can be embodied in any Constitution. Because after all the first Constitution that set up this House did not give the Ministers £3,000; it has been changed on recommendations. What prevails in Britain, for instance is that the Speaker has a salary of £5,000 a year, and Ministers as a rule get £5,000. The Prime Minister gets £10,000, but the Ministers get £5,000. The Speaker has a salary of £5,000 a year, the same as that of a Minister, and a

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residence within the Palace of Westminster. The Speaker even does not live outside Westminster; he lives inside Westminster his rooms are there, his offices are there; and he sleeps there. But what happens in our case? The Speaker has not got an official residence. It is admitted that we have not got our own very dignified House which we would like to put up and because of that it is not possible to attach the Speaker's house and the Speaker's offices to our Parliament. If so, is there any earthly reason why we should allow the Speaker to pay extra rents?

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: No. It is not fair.

10 a.m.

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: I feel that it is not fair. It may be argued that the Speaker himself has got a house but there is a precedent where a house belonging to an officer of the Government has had to be rented for that Minister. So I would recommend strongly to the Minister to take this matter up with the appropriate quarters, the Finance Committee, if we are not going to vote it here now, to see that we give a subsidy to the Speaker to enable him to tide over this question of rent.

I might even go on to say that in England on the Speaker's retirement he is offered a Viscounty and provided with a pension. That is to say, when he retires he is made a Lord for he holds such a respectable position and is expected to be so impartial to both the Government and the minority in the House, that after his retirement he is placed either in the House of Lords or he is made a Viscount and he is also given a pension. Here our Speaker is not according to the Constitution, pensionable. I think the matter should be seriously considered.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear! Hear! Hear!

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: I now come to the point of the Clerk. I am very happy that the Clerk was sent to England to learn a bit from the House of Commons, but at the same time it is unfortunate that he could not get the four months course which was designed for him. In any case we feel that as *Hansard* has come and the Minister has told us that one or two things have to be put right during the holiday, it is all right; he can go at some other time. But the Clerk of the House is also a very important man. As a matter of fact he is expected to drill himself in the procedure of the House. He is expected—after all Erskine May was a Clerk of the House—to know the rules so that he may guide the Speaker because sometimes the Speaker has to make some ruling, at the same time he has to look after what is going on in the House. Therefore, the Clerk will have to look up the Parliamentary Law Books and guide him. Apart from that the Clerk has a very responsible work to do. He has to certify that the Bills we pass in this

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House are true copies. That is very very important. A slight mistake in a comma or a full stop will change that law altogether and will ruin the law that has been made. In addition to that the Clerk is as it were the Principal Assistant Secretary or the Permanent Secretary of the department, if you are going to call the Legislature a department, but what is happening? The Clerk to the Assembly draws £1,500 per annum but the Secretary to the Cabinet draws £2,600. The Secretary to the Cabinet, that is the Secretary to the Governor, draws £2,600, whilst the Clerk to the Assembly has £1,500. I suggest that some adjustment should be made; at least, the Clerk to the Assembly should be considered as a Principal Assistant Secretary, or if you choose, a Permanent Secretary.

Well, I hope I have made a case.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: A good case!

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: Then it may be argued that the Secretary to the Governor has also very important duties to perform. I agree. In fact he deals with several documents and top secret documents and therefore he has to be considered as a very responsible man; but even there if a mistake is done it may not easily affect the country, whereas in this case if the Clerk certifies at once the matter comes into the *Gazette* and everybody comes to regard it as the law. Therefore he has a responsible post.

Then we come to the Assistant Clerk. There was talk the other day of appointing a Deputy Clerk. I do not think it has been decided yet, but if we are going to decide to increase the salary of the Clerk, it means that all other pays ought to be adjusted; but in this particular case I will also make a suggestion that instead of calling him an Assistant Clerk it will be much better to call him Clerk Assistant as in the House of Commons.

Finally I come to our Sergeant-at-Arms. Our Sergeant-at-Arms looks like a Policeman; in fact he wears a Police dress. I do not see why we should not design a special dress for him. I will also suggest that instead of the Sergeant-at-Arms sitting outside the bar of the House, he should sit inside the House. For one thing he has to lift the bar many a time to make the full House or to send us to Committee. I would suggest that something be done. Now, if he is not considered a Policeman, definitely his salary will be adjusted. I suspect that it is because he is considered as a pensioned Policeman that is why he is given such a salary.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Too bad.

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: Then the Minister has also talked of the great work that is being done by the members of the staff on the *Hansard*. We all appreciate their work and we feel that most of them are doing overtime work.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: All of them.

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: All of them, I understand, are doing overtime work and they are not paid overtime according to the resolution in this House. But to every rule there is an exception and I feel that this is one of the important exceptions; you must go into it and see that we remunerate them so that they do the work very satisfactorily for us as they have hitherto been doing.

MR. J. K. A. QUASHIE: Mr. Chairman, to give the Legislative Assembly a spiritual air, pomp and grace, it would be proper to seek the services of a Reverend Minister to read the prayers in the House.

In the first place I have to congratulate the *Hansard* Branch of the Legislative Assembly for the efficient manner in which they have been handling the debates of the House.

My Honourable Friend the Member for Sekondi-Takoradi has dealt with the salary for the Speaker, the Clerk and the Sergeant-at-Arms; but I feel that he has made no definite suggestions about the Sergeant-at-Arms. If you look through the Civil Estimates of the House of Commons, you will find that the Sergeant-at-Arms draws a salary up to £2,000 and he has a Deputy too.

I am going to deal with the Recorder. We find that in the Legislative Assembly we have a Recorder; I feel that that name is a wrong nomenclature; it should be changed to "Editor of the *Legislative Assembly Debates*", because definitely he edits the debates of the Legislative Assembly and he has a lot of work to do in that respect. His work is definitely editing and co-ordinating of the typescripts presented by the Reporters and he exercises supervision over the *Hansard* staff. I think that there should be an Assistant Editor appointed to help this Editor, and also two Sub-Editors. If you look into the offices of the editorial staff just behind the Speaker, you will see that to make the daily *Hansard* a success the *Hansard* Branch has to work at top speed and work right up to mid-night and beyond. It is also learnt that from experience of the machine, as definitely demonstrated, it can only be used as a check on the Reporters but cannot be used alone. We have only eight Reporters here whilst in the House of Commons there are about 20. I know some people may argue that the number of Members in the House of Commons is over 600, but not all the 600 speak at the same time; only one speaks at a time as we do here. I think we have to increase the number and I suggest that the number of eight Reporters be increased to 16 so that they may be allowed enough time to go and transcribe what they have taken down in shorthand. After all the machines do not help them much.

Also the Assembly Press. I think it is time that the Assembly Press should come under the Clerk of the Assembly as it is done in the House of Commons.

[MR. QUASHIE]

I feel the salary of the Clerk should be equal to the salary of Permanent Secretaries in the Ministries. I also agree that the salary of the Clerk to the Cabinet should be a bit more than the Permanent Secretary's salary as obtains in the United Kingdom.

I am not going to bother the House so much but I would say that this is an important Branch of the Government machinery and as we have the Speaker as the Head of this Branch I think we have to look into it and see that the best consideration is given to these people here and all the clerks too.

DR. ANSAH .KOI: I want to say one thing about the Deputy Speaker. There is no office in the Speaker's Office for the Deputy Speaker. I feel that the Deputy Speaker should be given an office so that he can acquaint himself with what is going on in that office, so that at any time he can take charge of the Speaker's Office when the need arises.

MR. BEDIAKO POKU: Mr. Chairman, I have only a few suggestions to make. I endorse wholeheartedly the statement of the Municipal Member for Sekondi-Takoradi; but I feel the Speaker's Office is like an old 15th century Pope's residence. The place is so dirty and there are no Reception Rooms for Members when they go there. So I would like to suggest that instead of having the Aglionby Library here—although this Hall is a temporary place for the Legislative Assembly—the Aglionby Library should be removed to the Speaker's Office and the Speaker's Office should come to occupy Aglionby Library so that they will be able to serve this House very well.

Last year also a vote was made for the painting of the Speaker's office but nothing at all has been done.

10.15 a.m.

The Canteen is opened in the morning from 10 o'clock to 11 o'clock. There are so many Members who would like at that time either to drink water or have some cold drink but the Canteen is not opened until 11 o'clock. So I would suggest that the Canteen should be opened. Yesterday I saw an Honourable Member drinking water with his hand. I do not think this is dignified to the House.

We have no special telephone operator in this House, so that usually when Members get telephone calls somebody will have to run to call them. For instance, I remember the other day the Minister of Health came and called me that I had got a telephone call. So I would like to suggest that a special telephonist be stationed in this House whenever the Assembly is sitting.

Postal facilities in the form of either a Postal Agency or anything that will help Members to send telegrams and letters when the Assembly is in session should be extended to this House.

[MR. BEDIAKO POKU]

There are also no towels or soap or toilet paper in the private rooms and I suggest that all these things should be provided.

Before I sit down I would like to pay a special tribute to this department where Africanisation has been pursued to the letter, and also to thank the Reporters, the Clerk and the printers of the *Hansard* for the efficient work done. I wish them success.

The Speaker is the embodiment of the nation, and I would like to repeat what the Honourable Member for Sekondi-Takoradi has said to the effect that all that will make him dignified should be given to him.

MR. OFORI ATTA: May the question be put now, Sir.

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: One and a half hours have been allotted for this debate.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Are you the Chairman?

NII KWABENA BONNE III: In supporting the first and second speakers, I am very pleased to say that this House should thank God for having secured the Honourable Sir Quist to be the Speaker. The Speaker is a man with a background; he is a man whose ability is unchallengeable; he is a man having all the qualities necessary for a Speaker of any House. The House is actually in the hands of the Speaker, and I pray the Almighty God to give him long life until this House has achieved its goal, and that he will live to see the fruits of his labours (hear! hear!). I need not waste the time of the House, but I would add that the Clerk of the House should also be considered as well as the Deputy and the so-called Editor. (*Interruption*).

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: So-called?

NII KWABENA BONNE: Well, it has been suggested that his title should be Editor and I suggest that the Minister of Finance should take all these into consideration, because I have already said some time past, if you want good service from your servant you have to pay him well and then you can get all that you want from him.

MR. ASUMDA: Members have dealt with this question of the Legislature but there is a point of which I wish to remind the Government and that is the production and distribution of the *Hansard*. The production and distribution of the *Hansard* is only confined to the Government Printer and I would like to suggest humbly to Government that the *Hansard* distribution should go hand in hand with the *Daily Graphic* or any newspaper so as to make it available to the public who can read and disseminate the matter to the ignorant people who do not know how to read.

MR. OHENE-DJAN: How can they read?

MR. ASUMDA: I said people who can read. One point I would like to stress strongly to the Government is that the *Hansard* Society in London sees to it that the *Hansard* reaches the public who might publicise Parliamentary Government after having read the *Hansard*. I think Government have a profit-making motive for making the *Hansard*. That should not be the aim of any good Government. They should make the *Hansard* as cheap as possible.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: The *Hansard* is very cheap.

MR. ASUMDA: I know it is cheap, but Government may in future consider to increase it, and so I must give warning to Government not to increase its cost; there should be no increase whatsoever in the cost; it should be as cheap as it is so that the public might get it cheaply to buy, in order to read it all over the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, would you like to wind up now?

MR. ARTHUR: On a point of order. There is an important suggestion I would like to put to the Minister and that is about the Recorder's salary. I am suggesting that as his work is very important and it consists of the preparation of comprehensive indexes to the debates, the salary of the Editor or Recorder be raised to £1,060; that of the Deputy Editor should be £650-£800, and that of the Assistant should be £580. These are my points which I would like to make.

MR. ATTAFUAH: It has come to my notice that it is proposed to appoint a pensioner as Deputy Clerk of this House and I am afraid if that is done, it is going to establish some sort of precedent and in future, if this is allowed, I know some of the expatriate pensioners will have to be called back, because already the precedent has been made. I am therefore protesting seriously against it. Mr. Chairman, it should not be pursued in this House.

MR. HUGH THOMAS: Does the Father of the House get any extra?

MR. ARMITAGE: I think, Sir, that we have heard a good deal in praises of the staff of the Clerk's Office, and those who run the *Hansard*. There are no emoluments to my knowledge ever attached to the post of Father of the House. This is an honorary title. I am not sure that he in fact, should not be the dispenser of favours as fathers normally are.

With regard to the Honourable Member who raised the question of Deputy Clerk there is no such post at the moment. A proposal was made to the Standing Finance Committee that a post should be created and the Standing Finance Committee asked for further information; at that stage the position now rests. So there is not even a post yet to be filled.

[MR. ARMITAGE]

The Honourable Member from the Northern Territories who spoke asked that Government should not increase the price of the *Hansard*. It is correct that the *Hansard* is being published very much below cost; it is quite clear that we have got to see the extent to which we can continue to publish it below cost. I am quite certain that a very sympathetic view will be taken to see that it is kept as cheap as possible, but I would remind Honourable Members here that they have a duty to safeguard the spending of the public's money and I think that when they get facts in this respect they will come to a decision on those facts.

The Honourable Member for Wenchi made various criticisms of the conditions of the Clerk's Office, the Speaker's Office and of this building. Fortunately we have the staff of the office here at present and I am sure they are taking notice of those remarks.

The Deputy Speaker at present uses an office part-time in the Clerk's office. As Honourable Members are aware he does not live in Accra, and so he probably has not got a full-time use for an office here yet.

I think it was the Honourable Member for Anlo who suggested that there should be overtime pay. Well it is, of course, a rule in the Government that Members of the Clerical or Executive staff do not get overtime; but there are exceptions, and we are considering an exception in respect of the Speaker's Office. (Hear! Hear!).

The question of whether we have more Reporters or not, the question whether the Recorder should be called Editor and so on, and the remarks of Honourable Members will all be taken into consideration when we go into this matter as I promised when moving this motion.

I am informed that in the United Kingdom the Sergeant-at-Arms does not sit in the House of Commons but outside the Bar; so I suggest that he remains there in conformity with that.

On the general question of the increase in salaries proposed throughout this department as I have said, I am sure Honourable Members will want these representations to be very seriously considered and we will do so; but at the same time as I have said from time to time in this House, we have got to take into account the proper expenditure of public funds.

MR. QUASHIE: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I asked about the transfer of the Assembly Press to be the responsibility of the Clerk of the Assembly, and that some sort of scholarships should be given the Reporters to go to England.

MR. ARMITAGE: That matter is under consideration.

10.30 a.m.

MR. E. K. DADSON: I am suggesting, as the Honourable Member for Anlo suggested, that we should run the canteen attached to this Assembly on a full-time basis. By that I mean that we should discontinue employing the Y.M.C.A. to supply the sandwiches and the coffee to the canteen, so that we might be able to supply our own sandwiches and such things in order to be able to cut down expenses. That is what I think about it.

The question:

“ That the sum of £93,490 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Legislature shall stand part of the Schedule ”,
was put, and agreed to.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Land Boundary Settlement Department

MINISTER OF JUSTICE (MR. BRANIGAN): Mr. Chairman, I beg to move:

“ That the sum of £3,500 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Land Boundary Settlement Department shall stand part of the Schedule ”.

Honourable Members will remember that in the Land Boundary Settlement Ordinance, provision was to provide for the settlement of land boundary disputes, and this is the first step which the Government are taking to put this Ordinance into operation. You will notice in the heading under 52 in the Estimates that the items for Clerical Staff and Travelling and Transport, and Miscellaneous, are token votes, because it is not known what exactly will be involved until the Land Boundary Settlement Commissioner himself comes and takes up his appointment and goes into the matter and puts in more detailed and concrete estimates of the running of this very small department. I do not think there is anything further at this moment for me to say.

Motion made, and question proposed.

NENE MATE KOLE: Mr. Chairman, some time has elapsed now since the passing of the law relating to Land Boundary Settlement and although at the time of its passage the great importance and urgency of this measure had been stressed by the Government, we have not seen any action taken so far to indicate that Government really attach to it such importance as they did when the Ordinance was proposed in this House. It is our fervent hope and all the Territorial Councils in the Colony, Ashanti and Togoland have expressed in no uncertain terms that the functions laid down by this Ordinance be carried out promptly in the economic

[NENE MATE KOLE]

interest of the country and also in the interest of the development of the Local Councils which are very closely linked up with the settlement of the boundaries of our various territories.

In this connection I would like to digress a little and say something about the appointment we have just heard has been or is being made as to the post of Commissioner. We are not certain in our own minds what the appointment is going to be, whether it is going to be a judicial appointment or a Civil Service appointment. If it is a judicial appointment, we know that it is an appointment made by the Queen. If it is a Civil Service one it is made by the Governor on the recommendation and advice of the Public Service Commission. In any case we want to be clear as to what appointment it is going to be. I must say at once that the Joint Provincial Council of the Colony is not a little perturbed about this matter as to the person proposed to be appointed to take up this post. It should be realised that if it is a Civil Service appointment the appointment will be made by the Governor on advice. Although it is said that it is in his discretion, the Governor's discretion is in this country always exercised with the advice of his Cabinet or with the advice of certain bodies that have been set up to advise him specifically in that discretion.

But I would like to point out that Government are not unaware of the fact that there is no cordial relationship between the gentleman Government propose to appoint or have appointed as Land Boundary Settlement Commissioner and the Chiefs of this country. You all know that the thing that he is going to settle is land, which apart from the Stools is the most important charge of every Chief. It is quite clear—and I must voice out the feeling of the Joint Provincial Council to you—it is my duty to say that it is quite clear that the gentleman has on several occasions indicated or done such acts as to show his intention against Chiefs individually and against them as a body and against the institution itself, is not a cordial one. He has, by his pronouncements in several places and his actions, shaken and undermined, I must say, the very fabric of the institution of Chieftaincy. I think it is no secret that some years ago this gentleman summarily sentenced a Chief to imprisonment because he was late to his court and the Joint Provincial Council had to send a deputation to the Governor to protest against this.

I think it is also well known that this gentleman, in addition to many things that he has said, said openly and in writing that all Chiefs in this country indulge in speculation and that how long they stay on the Stools is an index of the fact that they are clever thieves—

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: If he is against the Chiefs, is he against the people?

NENE MATE KOLE: Now, Honourable Gentleman, we are dealing with a matter which is very serious. After all we are all Africans and the respect that the African gives to an African is what he must expect a man of another nationality to give to a man in a certain position of his own colour.

If a gentleman like this can make such a statement, such a prejudiced statement, without any feeling of restriction, I think that the Joint Provincial Council and all Chiefs in the Colony, and for that matter I believe also in Ashanti, are in their rights, and they have been properly provoked to take an attitude of mind that such a gentleman is not a man who will be able to deal with a matter affecting Chiefs without prejudice. I think that because of these things the Government ought to advise His Excellency the Governor that this appointment is not only going to be unpopular, but is an appointment which is going to be unworkable. The Chiefs will not make it unworkable, but it is an appointment which is going to meet with a lot of difficulties and will therefore hamper the machinery of Government. If despite the fact that this matter is common knowledge to everybody, and this matter has actually been raised and talked of in this House on more than two occasions, Government will advise that a man of this calibre, a man of this attitude and frame of mind, although he is a man who is called "Honourable" and sits on Her Majesty the Queen's Bench will be able to discriminate against a group of Her Majesty's subjects and say libellous things against them as a group—if the Government will recommend a man like that who retires on pension to come back and take up such duties involving commercial, and political issues of our country, I think the Government are not doing justice to all sections of the community and we call upon them to reconsider this matter in the light of the known facts and advise His Excellency the Governor that this appointment is not only unpopular, but we view it with a grave concern and we will implore him to use his good offices to see that it never takes place.

NII KWABENA BONNE III: Mr. Chairman, in supporting the first speaker on this subject, I have been informed that the appointment has already been made and the person's name has also been given. I was truly and in fact informed that Justice Jackson, now Mr. Jackson, has been appointed as Land Boundary Settlement Commissioner. Now, if this is correct I am afraid the Government have gone astray. The fact is this. First of all Mr. Jackson was a Judge in Nigeria, and he was the cause of the Enugu shooting. I can assure you that this man is a 100 per cent negrophobist—

MR. BEDIAKO POKU: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I do not think the Honourable Member is fair in referring to Sir Justice Jackson as a negrophobist. I have known this man for a long time, and honestly he is one of the best judges in this country (*hear! hear!*). But the point is that one of the characteristics of

[MR. POKU]

the Gold Coast African is that he wants a man who condones crime and if you are able to condone his crime then you are his friend; but if you are bold enough to point out his fault to him, then you become his enemy.

NENE MATE KOLE: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. I think the speech just given by my Honourable Friend is not permissible under Standing Orders. It casts a slur against the character of the whole Gold Coast people and I think he must withdraw it. He says the Gold Coast African is a person who admires a man that will permit him to condone crime—

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: He said some of the Gold Coast Africans!

NENE MATE KOLE: He said "the Gold Coast African". I heard it clearly. If I may speak again, Mr. Chairman, I would like to say that we are not debating Wenchi here. We are debating a matter which is very serious and important.

MR. BEDIAKO POKU: I would like the Honourable Member to note that I am also not against the Wenchihene in any way, but I asked for justice. You are a Chief and you must be fair.

DR. ANSAH KOI: Mr. Chairman will the Honourable Member withdraw that statement?

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Sit down! Shame!

NII KWABENA BONNE III: Mr. Chairman, I am very very surprised that a point of order was raised. It is not necessary at all. His time will come and he can recommend him as much as he likes, but it makes no difference at all, and he must allow me to have my own say in the matter. I say that this gentleman is a negrophobist.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You say the appointment should be revoked?

NII KWABENA BONNE III: The appointment has been made and the name is Mr. Jackson.

10.45 a.m.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the appointment has already been made, I think, the Land Commissioner's appointment is a judicial appointment and it comes within section 48. So you cannot discuss his conduct here, unless upon a substantive motion.

NII KWABENA BONNE III: Mr. Chairman, this information is a rumour; in fact it has not appeared in the *Gazette* yet; so you cannot take it as a genuine one and you cannot therefore say that he comes within that section.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anyway leave out personalities.

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NII KWABENA BONNE III: Well, I will speak on this motion, but I will not mention any names. If this appointment is to be made at all, I strongly suggest that an African should be given the chance. I tell you, Sir, that we have men like Sir Henley Coussey, Mr. Justice Korsah, Mr. Justice Quashie Idun—

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: No! No! We do not want Quashie Idun.

NII KWABENA BONNE III: All right we have Justice Van Lare, and many others. I know these people can hold the appointment.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: No! No!

NII KWABENA BONNE III: Do you mean to say that there is no African in the whole country who can be appointed as Boundary Settlement Commissioner? If you mean it, then I can only say that we are not ripe for self-government (*laughter*). Yes, I say we are not ripe for self-government. If you mean that there is nobody in this country who is qualified for this post and you want this man to be appointed then you are supporting the importation of expatriates. I am very much surprised at you.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Do not get excited! Address the Chair.

NII KWABENA BONNE III: I am very surprised indeed; we have got people with good background, who have all the knowledge of law, people who know the constitutional matters affecting land, and who can administer in the best interests of the whole country. Mr. Chairman, I think if the Government really are serious and really want us to get our self-government, they would never dream to appoint a man who just left the Government, who has drawn his heavy gratuity and who is now drawing his pension, to come back through the back door and take another appointment on contract. If you allow this, that means to say you are encouraging the expatriates to come, and it shows clearly that we are not ripe for self-government yet. (*Laughter*).

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: We are ripe! We are ripe!

NII KWABENA BONNE III: It is a fact, you cannot get out of it. A man has been in the Colony for so many years and has retired on pension and is now drawing his pension and yet you now want such a man to return through the back door as Boundary Settlement Commissioner on a salary of about £3,500 a year. What are you doing? I mean, after all you say one thing at your rallies and come here to say a different thing; you must confirm whatever you say at your rallies at the "Arena" when you come here. I mean it is very sad. This gentleman when he was a Judge and when on an inspection of a certain land fought with one of the litigants (*laughter*)—he actually fought with the litigant somewhere in the Cape Coast District.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have asked you to avoid personalities.

NII KWABENA BONNE III: Mr. Chairman, this is a very important debate and you must give me the chance to express the view of the Joint Provincial Council as well as my own. I can assure you that if this gentleman or whoever he is, is appointed to take up this appointment, I will take it upon myself—I challenge anyone—and see that he is boycotted. I can assure you, and you can challenge me with all your weapons—I have the power to do so and I know I can boycott him.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: The Government are there to keep order!

NII KWABENA BONNE III: You have to waste the public money. This £3,500—he would only come to sit down and spend it and go away. If you do not take care to answer this question properly and you go on saying that the Government are here to maintain law and order and so forth, it is just as much as to say to a child when he is hungry, “look here, here is a bread for you so keep quiet”. Nobody wants to commit any crime; but the man, I mean to say, if he really takes up this post, I am quite sure I will give my life to save his life (*laughter*). A great man is not known until after his death (*laughter*). I tell you plainly. When I tell you that I will stage a boycott against his administration, I mean it and I will give my life against his life (*laughter*). It is a very serious matter and you can take it as a joke if you like but it is not a joke, I tell you. As I told you, you can bring him, for I know you have the power in your hands to do so, but if it happens, I will show you that there is a great man also with power (*laughter*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, I think the time is up.

NII KWABENA BONNE III: Mr. Chairman, with these few remarks I will take my seat for the Minister concerned to reconsider the position.

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: No! No!

NII KWABENA BONNE III: Whether you say no or not, you will see.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the Minister will wind up.

MR. WILLIAM OFORI ATTA: Mr. Chairman, I appeal to the House to cool down emotions. This is a very very serious problem. It has been said that the Land Boundary Settlement Commissioner will be in the status of a Judge. Here in the Estimates, it is placed under the Ministry of Justice and therefore he would be truly a Civil Servant, with all the qualities of a Civil Servant.

The second point is this—

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, that was my own opinion.

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MR. OFORI ATTA: I am sorry; I am not challenging your opinion, Sir. But the second point is this. We ought to understand the stand being taken by the Chiefs. After all most of these boundaries will affect—in fact all the boundaries will be State boundaries—and most of the witnesses or persons with whom the Commissioner would be dealing with will be Chiefs and their attendants. Now when we say, when all the Chiefs say, that the Commissioner is going to be prejudiced—actually you cannot be prejudiced against both sides—but what they say is and you have to go to court to appreciate it—the Minister of Justice does not go to the court—but those of us who go to the court, find that the attitude of this particular gentleman towards the Chiefs and their attendants is not fair. I mean an ordinary person is treated with all the respect that is due to him as an ordinary citizen. As soon as this Judge sees any Chief in the box, he treats him with all sorts of indignities. This is not fair. If you want our Chiefs to be disgraced then you have every right to put a man like this there. He hit one Chief with a pencil one day in the Cape Coast area, and we know that he is not the right type of person to deal with this question. Therefore I appeal to this House or rather to the Government, to consider this question seriously. After all Akim Abuakwa will have some land dispute to be settled between them and Manya Krobo. If this person decides in our favour, well, we will take it. (*Laughter*). But this is not the issue. We want a person who will be trusted to give fair and unbiased judgment and who will also treat these Chiefs with respect, and who will invite these Chiefs to go to him freely and place their boundary disputes before him. But as it is, there are certain Chiefs who will never take any trouble boldly to appear before Mr. Judge Jackson, and we are making it difficult for some of our big problems to be settled amicably. We do not want protracted litigation over lands; all that we want is amicable settlement, and that is why we are now creating this post and we must not allow the appointment of Jackson to become a stumbling block to amicable settlement.

Now this House gets into trouble because we do not follow one principle. Only yesterday, we were saying that the contract terms given to the Director of Posts and Telecommunications are wrong and that if he has retired he must go and that we should try and appoint another man to the post.

11 a.m.

Here we are charged with a simple problem like this, Land Boundary Settlement Commissioner, a person who is well versed in the law and who knows our custom and he is able to do justice and we say on this 24th day of March, 1953 that there is no one African who will be able to perform this service satisfactorily and that we must bring back a man who has retired on pension and enter into contract in order to receive—how much?—£3,000. Mr.

[MR. OFORI ATTA]

Chairman, we must be honest to ourselves, we have always been fighting for one established principle that these contract terms must only be given to those specialists where suitable Africans cannot be got. Here is a particular post which is best suited for African mentality and we are offering it to a person, an expatriate, who is known not to favour some of our institutions, and have respect for them.

Mr. Chairman, I appeal to the House to exercise good judgment in this case.

MINISTER OF JUSTICE (MR. P. F. BRANIGAN): Mr. Chairman, in winding up the discussion on this motion, there is very little indeed that I can say because, as Honourable Members will realise, I am now moving the vote for this department and it is not within my province to deal with the appointment of the Commissioner. I think it would be improper for me to take part in that aspect of the debate which paid exclusive attention to the personal qualities of the officer who has been appointed to the post of Commissioner. Therefore I do not intend to reply to that aspect of it, except to say this, that no matter who the public servant is who is the subject of personal attack in the House, I will naturally deprecate this most strongly because I do not think that it is a practice for this House to indulge in. It will take a lot to convince me that it is even in the interest of this House, the long-term interest of this House, for it to continue to indulge in personal attacks on public servants as it has been doing during recent weeks. You have the example and tradition of other Legislatures to follow in this respect and that tradition is that it is not fair to attack a public officer in the House who is not in a position to answer back and defend himself; he is precluded by the terms of his appointment from answering either through the press, or on any platform, the attacks that were made on him. Of course, he can rely on his Minister in this House to defend him but he himself cannot do so. Therefore, unless it is absolutely necessary, unless it is an overriding necessity, there should never be an attack on a public officer here; he should not be attacked in his personal reputation.

Now let me distinguish that aspect of the debate from another aspect which I think it is very important to distinguish from a personal attack on a public servant. It is not easy to draw the line but I shall attempt it for it is important that we should not appear to be stifling legitimate criticism of Government business. I think Members of this House are entitled to say, having regard to a particular circumstance that a particular officer could not give the service that would be expected of him in a particular appointment because of certain relations he has exhibited, either with the public at large or with a particular section of the public with which he is going to deal in his public capacity. I think that is within the ambit of this House to bring to the notice of the Governor that

[MR. BRANIGAN]

because of certain well-known statements made by a particular person his carrying out of certain functions would meet with public opposition or because he has done something which makes it difficult for him to carry out that office. But in offering this advice the House should do this with decorum and restraint. It is the duty of the Members of the House to avoid as far as is humanely possible any personal attack on a Civil Servant and therefore I must say I do deprecate most strongly as Honourable Members also deprecate, personal attacks on such officers.

Now, to deal with one question that was raised this appointment is not judicial appointment. I was asked by some Honourable Members whether in my opinion it is a Civil Service appointment. It is a Civil Service appointment made under the terms of the Constitution by the Governor acting in his discretion, having had the advice of the Public Service Commission.

Now, one Honourable Member said that the Governor, acting in his discretion, has got to be advised by someone before he exercises that discretion; that is not so. "Acting in his discretion" means that he acts in his sole discretion and responsibility. He can take advice or he can refuse to take advice. It is for him to decide.

The point has also been made that an African should have been appointed to this post. It may seem, and I think rightly so, that it is surprising to many Honourable Members, that no suitable African lawyer was found for this post. We have been talking about Africanisation almost daily in this Committee of Supply and it does appear strange that with all the lawyers we have got in this country we cannot get an African lawyer to take up this post. But the fact is that the post was advertised and only one suitable African lawyer applied for the post and he subsequently withdrew his application because he considered another post with prospects that were greater was open to him.

These are the facts. That is all I have to say and I am asking the House to vote for the motion which is now before you.

The question:

"That the sum of £3,500 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Land Boundary Settlement Department shall stand part of the Schedule",

was put, and agreed to.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the Noes want to have a division, we will take it.

Motion—Remaining Heads of the Estimates

MINISTER OF FINANCE (MR. R. P. ARMITAGE):
Mr. Chairman, we have now reached the 20th day in the Committee of Supply. The time for dealing with the Appropriation Bill in committee has come to an end. I think that we can say that

[MR. ARMITAGE]

the new procedure introduced this year, whereby the representatives of the various interests in this Assembly chose the department that they wanted to debate, and by and large a lot of the time was spent on debating policy and principle and not individual cases, has proved itself very satisfactory. I think it is another step forward in our progress towards full constitutional and political establishment here. There are now a number of Heads which were not chosen and on which there has now been no debate. Under the terms of Standing Order 97 it now, Mr. Chairman, devolves upon you to put the question of all the Heads which have not already been disposed of, such Heads being No. 3 to 42 on this Order Paper.

I propose that you now, Mr. Chairman, put the question of Heads No. 3 to No. 42 standing on the Order Paper.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, the question is that all the sums—

MR. WILLIAM OFORI ATTA: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, is this automatic? And if a vote reverses, what happens?

The following questions were proposed on the motion of the Minister of Finance:—

- (3) " That the sum of £107,010 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Supreme Court shall stand part of the Schedule "
- (4) " That the sum of £26,500 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Governor shall stand part of the Schedule "
- (5) " That the sum of £25,430 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Cabinet shall stand part of the Schedule "
- (6) " That the sum of £114,430 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources shall stand part of the Schedule "
- (7) " That the sum of £305,570 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Forestry Department shall stand part of the Schedule "
- (8) " That the sum of £64,800 provided in the Third Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Forestry Department shall stand part of the Schedule "

[MR. ARMITAGE]

- (9) " That the sum of £22,040 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry shall stand part of the Schedule "
- (10) " That the sum of £62,360 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Ministry of Communications and Works shall stand part of the Schedule "
- (11) " That the sum of £133,040 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Department of Civil Aviation shall stand part of the Schedule "
- (12) " That the sum of £10,000 provided in the Third Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Department of Civil Aviation shall stand part of the Schedule "
- (13) " That the sum of £42,610 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Meteorological Services Department shall stand part of the Schedule "
- (14) " That the sum of £18,800 provided in the Third Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Meteorological Services Department shall stand part of the Schedule "
- (15) " That the sum of £546,630 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Public Works Department shall stand part of the Schedule "
- (16) " That the sum of £546,440 provided in the Third Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for Official Buildings shall stand part of the Schedule "
- (17) " That the sum of £590,500 provided in the Third Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for Roads shall stand part of the Schedule "
- (18) " That the sum of £2,236,000 provided in the Fourth Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for Roads shall stand part of the Schedule "
- (19) " That the sum of £400,000 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for Public Works Extraordinary shall stand part of the Schedule "
- (20) " That the sum of £7,000 provided in the Third Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for Urban Water Supplies shall stand part of the Schedule "

[MR. ARMITAGE]

- (21) "That the sum of £862,500 provided in the Fourth Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for Urban Water Supplies shall stand part of the Schedule".
- (22) "That the sum of £41,740 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Gold Coast Commissioner's Office shall stand part of the Schedule".
- (23) "That the sum of £808,000 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the payment of Military Expenses shall stand part of the Schedule".
- (24) "That the sum of £254,000 provided in the Third Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the payment of Military Expenses shall stand part of the Schedule".
- (25) "That the sum of £110 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Naval Volunteer Force shall stand part of the Schedule".
- (26) "That the sum of £457,590 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Printing Department shall stand part of the Schedule".
- (27) "That the sum of £8,700 provided in the Third Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Printing Department shall stand part of the Schedule".
- (28) "That the sum of £1,211,990 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare shall stand part of the Schedule".
- (29) "That the sum of £70,000 provided in the Third Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare shall stand part of the Schedule".
- (30) "That the sum of £530,000 provided in the Fourth Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare shall stand part of the Schedule".
- (31) "That the sum of £53,650 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Ministry of Finance shall stand part of the Schedule".
- (32) "That the sum of £568,950 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the payment of services under the Authority of the Ministry of Finance shall stand part of the Schedule".

[MR. ARMITAGE]

- (33) " That the sum of £48,470 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Income Tax Department shall stand part of the Schedule "
- (34) " That the sum of £317,500 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for Local Loans shall stand part of the Schedule "
- (35) " That the sum of £835,260 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the payment of Public Debt Charges shall stand part of the Schedule "
- (36) " That the sum of £31,120 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Ministry of Justice and Law Officers shall stand part of the Schedule "
- (37) " That the sum of £33,190 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Registrar-General's Department shall stand part of the Schedule "
- (38) " That the sum of £17,160 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Ministry of Labour shall stand part of the Schedule "
- (39) " That the sum of £78,840 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the service of the Ministry of Local Government and Housing shall stand part of the Schedule "
- (40) " That the sum of £26,890 provided in the First Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for the payment of Services under the Authority of the Ministry of Local Government and Housing shall stand part of the Schedule "
- (41) " That the sum of £200,000 provided in the Third Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for Local Government shall stand part of the Schedule "
- (42) " That the sum of £50,000 provided in the Fourth Schedule to the Appropriation Bill to provide for Town and Country Planning shall stand part of the Schedule "

11.15 a.m.

MR. DADSON: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, may I call attention to say something on that ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not for debate.

MR. DADSON: No comments at all ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not for debate; you simply agree to it or not.

MR. JANTUAH: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman. Where is the amendment order regulating this procedure?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is the latest Standing Order, the amendment; you passed it here in this House.

MR. JANTUAH: Yes Sir. But I would like to know whether the Clerk is now the Minister or from the Minister's Office.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, I think section 97—Have you got that new clause 97 of the Standing Orders? Well, the Clerk will read it to you.

(The Clerk reads the new Standing Order 97) as follows:—

“ 97. There shall be allotted a maximum of twenty days for discussion of the draft Estimates and the Appropriation Bill in Committee of Supply. The Business Committee of the Assembly shall select the order in which the heads of the draft Estimates shall be debated, and such time limit shall be imposed upon the discussion of any head and of the clauses of the Appropriation Bill as the Business Committee of the Assembly may stipulate at the time of selection of the order in which the heads of the draft Estimates are to be debated. Where a time limit has been imposed upon the debate on any head of the Estimates, or clauses of the Bill, then at the expiration of such period, if that head or clause has not been disposed of the Chairman shall put forthwith any question necessary to dispose of that head or clause. At the beginning of the twentieth day of Committee of Supply the Chairman shall put the question on all heads and clauses which have not already been disposed of, and these heads and clauses shall not be debated ”.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think you did not realise the effect of this, when you were passing it.

MR. JANTUAH: I did, but I thought we might be given some chance to debate.

The question was put and agreed to.

First, Second, Third and Fourth Schedules ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clauses 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

The Preamble and the Long Title ordered to stand part of the Bill.

House resumed.

Bill reported without amendment during committee stage, read third time, and passed into law.

BILLS

FIRST READING

THE MINISTERIAL SECRETARY TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (MR. R. A. AMPADU): I beg to move that:

"An Ordinance to make provision for the assimilation of the Military Units established under the Military Units Ordinance, 1942, into the Gold Coast Regiment of the Royal West African Frontier Force and to provide for the establishment of other Units within such Regiment; and for other purposes connected therewith"

be read a first time.

THE MINISTERIAL SECRETARY TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (MR. J. B. ERZUAH): I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to, and Bill read a first time.

MR. AMPADU: I beg to give notice that at a later stage of the proceedings, the Minister is going to move for the second reading of this Bill.

MINISTERIAL SECRETARY TO THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE (MR. KROBO EDUSEI): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Chattels Transfer Ordinance, 1952" be read a first time.

MR. ERZUAH: I beg to second the motion.

Question put and agreed to, and the Bill read a first time.

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: I beg to give notice that at a later stage in the proceedings, the Minister of Justice shall move the second reading of this Bill.

MINISTERIAL SECRETARY TO THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (MR. OHENE-DJAN): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill intituled "An Ordinance to make provision for raising loans in the Gold Coast" be read a first time.

MR. R. A. AMPADU: I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to, and the Bill read a first time.

MR. OHENE-DJAN: I beg to give notice that at a later stage in the proceedings, the Minister of Finance shall move the second reading of this Bill.

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (MR. K. A. GBEDEMAH): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Diamond Mining Industry Protection Ordinance" be read a first time.

Bills—First Reading

MR. E. K. BENSAH: I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to, and the Bill was read a first time.

MR. GBEDEMAH: I beg to give notice that at a later stage in the proceedings I shall move the second reading of this Bill.

MINISTERIAL SECRETARY TO THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (MR. F. Y. ASARE): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill intituled "An Ordinance to validate the making, levying and collection of certain rates by Councils established under the Local Government Ordinance, 1951" be read a first time.

MR. OHENE-DJAN: I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to, and the Bill read a first time.

MR. ASARE: I beg to give notice that at a later stage in the proceedings, the Minister of Local Government and Housing shall move the second reading of this Bill.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Concessions Ordinance, 1939" be read a first time.

MR. AMPADU: I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to, and the Bill read a first time.

MR. ASARE: I beg to give notice that at a later stage in the proceedings, the Minister of Local Government and Housing shall move the second reading of this Bill.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Local Government Ordinance, 1951" be read a first time.

MR. AMPADU: I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to, and the Bill read a first time.

MR. ASARE: I beg to give notice that at a later stage in the proceedings, the Minister of Local Government and Housing shall move the second reading of this Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: This concludes the business of the day.

The House was adjourned at thirty-five minutes past eleven o'clock, to Wednesday, the 25th March, 1953, at 9 o'clock a.m.

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

WEDNESDAY, 25TH MARCH, 1953

The House resumed at 9.15 a.m.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair).

PRAYERS

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MR. OHENE-DJAN: Mr. Speaker, I have one very important correction to make. In paragraph 5, line 5, instead of "25", it should be "35". Head 25 refers to the Ministry of Education which came before the House for debate, but Head 35 is rather for Town and Country Planning which was never debated in the Assembly and it should be corrected as such.

MR. SPEAKER: The correction has been made.

ANNOUNCEMENT

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, you have no doubt heard of the death of Queen Mary with profound sorrow. Queen Mary was dearly loved by all her people. Her life was an inspiration to them and they now deeply mourn her. The Prime Minister will make a few remarks of condolence.

THE PRIME MINISTER: Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sorrow that we heard the news of the death of Her Majesty Queen Mary. Her Majesty passed away at 20 minutes past 10 last night after a long illness.

The minds of Honourable Members will be turning to the bereaved, the youthful Queen Elizabeth II and all the Royal Family. Tomorrow I shall formally move a motion of condolence.

I should now, however, ask Honourable Members to stand in silence for one minute as a mark of their respect for Queen Mary and as a token of their sympathy for the bereaved. (*House stood in silence for one minute.*)

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, I have to make another sad announcement to you. I regret to announce to you, the death of Mumuni Koray, Wa-Na, Twelfth Territorial Member for the Northern Territories, which sad event occurred in his home at Wa yesterday morning.

The Wa-Na suffered a lingering illness and during the whole of last year he was unable to attend any of our meetings, also this present meeting. He has not had any great opportunity to serve his country, I am sure, as he would like. As opportunity will be given later to Members to pay tribute to him and to his

work, I shall refrain from saying anything more at present, except to convey to the bereaved family and the people of his Stool our heartfelt condolence.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The Gold Coast Schools of Hygiene and Sanitation—Instructors

274. MR. N. B. ABUBEKR asked the Minister of Health:

- (a) How many instructors are in the Gold Coast Schools of Hygiene and Sanitation?
- (b) How many of these are qualified teachers and are holders of R.S.I. (London)?

MINISTERIAL SECRETARY TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MR. J. K. DONKOH):

- (a) There are three Training Officers, one at each of the Schools of Hygiene in Accra, Kintampo and Tamale. Each is assisted by a Grade I or Grade II Sanitary Inspector, who assists particularly in the teaching of practical work. These assistants are seconded temporarily for this purpose. At the Accra School there is also a full-time Science Master, and some lectures are also given to the students by the Senior Health Nursing Sister.
- (b) Of the three Training Officers, two are holders of the Diploma of the R.S.I. (London); the third possesses the Diploma of the R.S.I. (Scotland) which is the equivalent (at least) of the London Diploma.

MR. QUASHIE: The question asked is, how many instructors are in the Gold Coast Schools of Hygiene and Sanitation, how many of these are qualified teachers and holders of R.S.I. What are the qualifications of these assistants. Have they also teacher's certificates—are they qualified teachers?

MR. J. K. DONKOH: The Science Master is qualified and the other teacher is having a School Certificate.

MR. QUASHIE: That is not the answer at all. The question is, how many instructors are in the Gold Coast Schools of Hygiene and Sanitation? You have told us that there are Grade I and Grade II Sanitary Instructors; are they also having the R.S.I., West Africa, Scotland or London and have they been trained as teachers?

MR. J. K. DONKOH: If the Honourable Member has carefully read the answer he will see that his question has been fully answered, in that he asked how many instructors are there in the Gold Coast and it is stated there that there are three Training Officers. By "Training Officers" I mean instructors.

MR. ABUBEKR: How does R.S.I. Scotland compare with R.S.I. West Africa?

MR. J. K. DONKOH: As stated here, it is equivalent to that of London. It is in the answer.

MR. ABUBEKR: That is not my question. I say, how does R.S.I. Scotland compare with R.S.I. West Africa?

MR. J. K. DONKOH: They are equivalent.

MR. J. K. QUASHIE: Therefore the Assistants to the Training Officers who possess the R.S.I. are as capable as the Training Officers?

MR. J. K. DONKOH: They are capable.

Nurses

275. MR. N. B. ABUBEKR: How many Nurses left the Service in 1952 and what were their reasons therefor?

MR. J. K. DONKOH: I have provided the Honourable Member with a statement setting out the position, but as it involves a number of figures I will, with permission, circulate it in the Official Report.

MR. N. B. ABUBEKR: Mr. Speaker, with your permission, I have not had any statement from the Minister and I should want the answer here in the Assembly from him.

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: What do you mean by "official report"?

MR. J. K. DONKOH: The following are the particulars of Nurses who left the Service in 1952:—

Resignations and Reasons for:

Domestic Reasons	.. .. .	24
Due to Pregnancy	.. .. .	12
Adverse Reports	.. .. .	2
Marriage Grounds	.. .. .	5
Lack of interest in Nursing	.. .. .	45
To take up new appointment in his State	.. .. .	1
To pursue further studies	.. .. .	4
		<hr/>
		93

Retirements:

On grounds of old age	.. .. .	9
On grounds of ill-health	.. .. .	2
		<hr/>
		11

Dismissals:

Unsatisfactory work and conduct	.. .. .	24
		<hr/>
		4

Invalided:

Summary:		
Resignations	.. .. .	93
Retirements	.. .. .	11
Dismissals	.. .. .	24
Invalided ..	.. .. .	4
		<hr/>
		132

TOTAL

132

MR. QUASHIE rose—

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. J. K. Lamptey!

9.30 a.m.

Private and Government Dental Surgeons

555. MR. J. K. LAMPTEY asked the Minister of Health how many (a) private (b) Government Dental Surgeons are in the country? Does the Minister consider the number adequate? If not what steps is he taking to improve the position?

MR. DONKOH:

(a) One.

(b) There will shortly be six Government Dental Surgeons in the country. Three are at present in practice, and a fourth is returning from study leave in the United Kingdom next month. One scholar has recently returned and another is due before the end of March. Following one month's disembarkation leave, these former scholars will assume duty.

The number is not considered to be adequate for the needs of the Gold Coast, and applications from well qualified private dental surgeons to practise would be welcome. As regards Government Dental Surgeons, addition to the establishment of seven must necessarily depend on the availability of funds and the relative importance of other health facilities which can be provided within the overall allocation for the Ministry of Health. Scholarships in dentistry are awarded by the Government.

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: Are there any qualified Government Scholarship Dental Surgeons in Britain who have refused to come back to practise in the Gold Coast?

MR. DONKOH: Yes, Sir.

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: How many?

MR. DONKOH: There are two.

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: What are the reasons for their not coming?

MR. DONKOH: Their reasons have not as yet been known to the Ministry, but I can promise the Honourable Member that the matter will be enquired into.

DR. ANSAH KOI: May I know from the Minister if the Government have any plans whereby school children are attended by Dental Surgeons?

MR. DONKOH: This is receiving the Ministry's consideration.

Drug for painless birth

556. MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: Are the Government aware of the existence of a drug for painless birth? Is it being used in our hospitals? If not, when does he intend introducing it?

MR. DONKOH: My information is that there is no drug capable of producing a truly "painless birth" unless the patient is made to undergo full anaesthetic procedures as for a surgical operation. There are available, however, several drugs which cause a reduction in the mother's awareness of pain during labour and which produce the ability to forget the pain afterwards. Not all of these drugs are suitable for use in the average hospital but where there is staff skilled in their use they are commonly employed.

DR. ANSAH KOI: May I know whether the Government employ what is called "twilight sleep" in the midwifery hospital?

MR. DONKOH: I require notice, Sir.

Training of Local Authority Dressers

561. MR. BUKARI YAKUBU asked the Minister of Health what is the present policy of the Medical Department on the training of Local Authority Dressers?

MR. DONKOH: The Honourable Member's attention is invited to paragraphs 289-291 of the Health Commission's Report and paragraph 19 of the Government Statement on that Report.

MR. BUKARI YAKUBU: Will the Government consider giving facilities to some of the most promising ones to be given further training in order to qualify in the various stages of Nursing up to the post of Superintendent?

MR. DONKOH: The Government will do so but within the scope of the paragraphs of the Health Commission's Report quoted.

MR. KUSI: Is it not a fact that the Health Commission's Report is not flexible?

MR. DONKOH: Whether it is flexible or not it has been accepted by the House.

MR. ABUBEKR: Is the Minister aware that the Local Authority Dressers in the Northern Territories are dissatisfied with their scales of salary?

MR. DONKOH: I am not aware.

Priorities for Development Projects

The following question stood on the Order Paper for putting by Nana Kwame Gyebi Ababio, who was absent:—

Nana Kwame Gyebi Ababio

TO THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT:

343. (a) Is it not a fact that the absence of priorities for development projects has led to the transfer of votes from one item to another?

- (b) In view of this experience will the Government consider now to make a list of priorities to save the situation?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT

To Nana Kwame Gyebi Ababio

343. (a) No Sir. The Honourable Member should have realised that this transfer of funds from one item to another was a clear indication of the existence of a list of priorities. It was the existence of such a priorities list which enabled the transfer of funds without dislocation of programmes from projects of low priority to these of high priority when this was necessitated by rising costs.
- (b) The Honourable Member has based his question on a wrong premise. The Government has already drawn up a comprehensive list of priorities based on the country's financial and material resources. This schedule of priorities is shown in the Development Plan Financial Summaries to which the Honourable Member is referred.

Hospital and Pipe-borne Water for South Mamprusi

The following question stood on the Order Paper for putting by Mr. Mumuni Bawumia, who was absent:—

Mr. Mumuni Bawumia

TO THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT:

506. Is it true that no provision has been made in the Development Plan for a hospital and pipe-borne water supply in South Mamprusi? If so, why?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT

To Mr. Mumuni Bawumia

Yes, Sir. When the Development Plan was prepared it was considered that the population in the North East could best be served by the three new hospitals at Bolgatanga, Bawku and Navrongo. The Government dispensary at Gambaga is being extended and it is intended to develop it in due course into a Health Centre. As far as a pipe-borne water supply is concerned, it is regretted that owing to heavy commitments throughout the country including the Northern Territories it will not be possible to provide such a supply for South Mamprusi in the current five-year plan period.

Expenditure on Fishing Industry

289. Mr. KUSI asked the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources what is the total sum of money spent on the reorganisation of the Fishing Industry?

MINISTERIAL SECRETARY TO THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (MR. IMORU): I regret that as the meaning of the question is not clear I am not able to give an answer, but if the Honourable Member would communicate with my Ministry I will endeavour to supply him with information he requires.

MR. KODZO: What would have been more clear than asking to know the sum of money spent on the reorganisation of the fishing industry which Government are doing all their best to undertake, and does this answer not convey the idea that the Government have no policy for the fishing industry?

MR. IMORU: *I do not quite understand what the Honourable Member is asking.* What does he mean by reorganisation of the fisheries industry?

MR. KODZO: I mean development of the fisheries industry.

MR. ABUBEKR: In other words, the development of the fishing industry.

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (MR. CASELY-HAYFORD): A great many things would have been very much easier to answer in that no date is given as to the period from which the information is required as to the reorganisation. Reorganisation from when, the question naturally arises?

MR. ABUBEKR: Is it not true that your Ministry has a scheme by which people are being trained in the Dagomba and Lawra states of the Northern Territories in the fishing industry?

MR. IMORU: That training is undertaken by the Native Authorities of those localities.

MR. ABUBEKR: Then are you aware of that?

MR. IMORU: Yes, we are aware of that; but you enquired of the policy within the Ministry and not outside it.

DR. ANSAH KOI: Are illiterate fishermen also brought within the reorganisation of the fishing industry?

MR. IMORU: They are, Sir.

DR. ANSAH KOI: If they are, what steps are you taking to educate them so that they can make full use of the reorganisation?

MR. CASELY-HAYFORD: Government are doing all they can to train educated persons interested in fishing and also uneducated persons. It is my desire in time to set up a school of fisheries, as we have in other parts of the world, so as to train them.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Where?

MR. CASELY-HAYFORD: There is naturally a demand that such an institution might be built at Keta, by the Keta people, at Elmina by the Elmina people, and also at Moree by the Moree people.

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: Mr. Speaker, I beg your pardon to ask just one supplementary. I would like to know from the Minister what use he is making of Mr. Dadson who seems to be interested in fishing?

MR. CASELY-HAYFORD: The Minister is in constant touch with Mr. Dadson; the Minister appreciates all the work that Mr. Dadson is doing and the Ministry is trying to do all it can to advise Mr. Dadson to organise a Co-operative Fishermen's Association, have it registered, and every help that is possible will be given to Mr. Dadson.

STATEMENT ON ANNOUNCEMENTS

NENE AZZU MATE KOLE: Mr. Speaker, with your indulgence I would like to address you very briefly on a matter which my brother Chiefs and I—

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: (*murmuring*)—

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep quiet and listen to what is being said.

NENE AZZU MATE KOLE: I would like to address you very briefly on a matter on which my brother Chiefs and I feel very strongly, if you will give me your permission.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, all right.

NENE AZZU MATE KOLE: Mr. Speaker, I would like with all humility yet with some strong feeling to address you on this matter. This morning we have had two very serious announcements made from the Chair, both of them referring to the passing away of members of Royal Families. The Prime Minister has made a good and fitting speech on them and told us that the matter will be raised again. But I believe it is our custom, and I do not think anybody will say it is not, that in the Gold Coast when such announcements are made we do not continue work. This morning, I heard the announcement by the B.B.C. and I believe I heard also that many of the Commonwealth Parliaments rose for the day as a mark of respect. I am appealing to the Government Bench to ask for the adjournment of work for to-day in respect of the two Royal persons that have passed away. If the Government do not find their way clear to do that, then Mr. Speaker, I would humbly beg, with the consent and concurrence of my brother Chiefs, to ask your permission to grant us leave to go and perform our custom.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your custom?

NENE AZZU MATE KOLE: To permit us to retire.

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (MR. K. A. GBEDEMAH): Mr. Speaker, the Honourable the First Territorial Member for the Colony has made a statement which Government considered this morning very carefully before the Prime Minister

[MR. GBEDEMAH]

made his statement on the passing away of Her Majesty and before you announced to the House the death of Honourable Mumuni Koray, Wa-Na. The matter was considered and it was decided that since Her Late Majesty was far removed from the Throne and was not a ruling Monarch, this House would only appropriately rise for a minute's silence in her memory ; because we have been here for nearly eight weeks and Government are anxious that the business of this sitting should be completed so that Members can go away for the Easter holidays. Now if we miss a days' work it means that we will probably not complete our work before Easter. This was the main consideration that led Government to decide not to break up for to-day. I hope those Honourable Members who feel that our custom should be performed will understand and not press any farther.

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: I would say that we cut the debate short for if we continue we will be adding indignity to the solemnity of the occasion.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no motion to be considered. I have no motion before me.

NENE AZZU MATE KOLE: Mr. Speaker, I would not like any acrimonious motion in respect of a matter like this, and I appeal to the Government Bench to consider the matter from our point of view ; and I believe this morning it has been announced that several Parliaments rose for the day. If Government feel that we must continue I will bow; but I will ask you to grant us leave to perform our custom.

THE PRIME MINISTER: I think on this question I am advised that the protocol in this matter, in this particular case, does not necessitate immediate adjournment.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, we shall continue. If any Chief likes to absent himself he can do so. *(Laughter.)*

MR. HUGH THOMAS: I do not regard this as anything to cause laughter at all.

FLOUR PRICES

MR. GBEDEMAH: Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Member for Wenchi asked a question yesterday without giving notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Member for Wenchi, your question is being dealt with but you are taking conversation; you do not even listen.

MR. GBEDEMAH: Since it is a matter of public interest I propose to answer him for the information of Honourable Members.

The question was that some trading firms had stocked large quantities of cheap flour and were taking advantage of the increase in price to dispose of them at huge profits. The answer is that

[MR. GBEDEMAH]

Government are not aware that huge stocks of cheap flour are being stocked by the big firms against a rise in price.

Evidence in possession of the Department of Commerce points to the contrary. At the end of February, stock returns gave stocks in the hands of merchants as 23,000 cwts. which at an average monthly consumption rate of 40,000 cwts. represented just over two weeks supply.

If the Honourable Member provides me with specific instances known to him, giving the names of the firms concerned I will cause investigations to be made.

MR. BEDIAKO POKU: I would like the Minister if he can find time to accompany me to a special wholesale where I have seen a stock of flour.

MR. GBEDEMAH: I am very glad of the opportunity being offered me by the Honourable Member to investigate such a matter. The department is very interested in checking such things and I shall take every opportunity to investigate this matter.

BILLS—SECOND READING AND COMMITTEE STAGE

The Lunatic Asylums (Amendment) Ordinance, 1953—Second Reading

[Progress: 13th February, 1953]

MINISTER OF HEALTH (MR. T. HUTTON-MILLS): Mr. Speaker, this Bill has been moved in second stage and Members have had the opportunity of expressing their views. In reply to these points, Government have given careful consideration as to the reasons which have been assigned for opposing this Bill. It is quite clear, however, that this block has already been built upon the recommendation made by the Asylum Visiting Committee of which the Special Member for Commerce happens to be the Chairman who has also spoken in this House in connection therewith.

I submit respectfully that at this stage it is essential that the block attached to the Mental Hospital at Accra should be used as an Observation Block for people suspected of being insane.

I have already given various reasons why it is not good to use the Prisons Department but the views expressed by Members that blocks should be built attached ultimately to, or in close proximity, of large hospitals in this country will be taken into consideration by Government and will be adopted in the near future. That being the case, I submit, respectfully that the block attached to the Mental Hospital at Accra should be used as stated in the Bill. Mr. Speaker, I beg to move.

MINISTERIAL SECRETARY TO MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MR. J. K. DONKOH): Mr. Speaker, I beg to second the motion.

Motion made, and question proposed, that the Bill be read a second time.

MR. J. KODZO: I feel that the arguments adduced against the use of this observation block built very near to the Mental Hospital have been so strong that I feel it is not very much in place that we should accept such a Bill; because I am afraid I have not got any assurance from the Minister as to a definite day when this block will be substituted somewhere or removed, and I am afraid persons suspected of lunacy taken there may remain there for ever. Those who have been in the hospital have kicked against the use of this block and I do not see the reason why we should accept this Bill.

MR. FITZ-GERALD: I feel that the principle of the observation block is quite correct. There is no harm in its being near the Mental Hospital at all, but all I say is that it is very much too small. The fact is that they have as many as one suspected lunatic per day here and if they were taken from the prisons to this block it would be considerably overcrowded. What I feel is that if a certain amount of money is to be spent on the Mental Hospital this year it really would be better if an additional observation block was built as soon as possible and then this Bill introduced. I think if this Bill is introduced now, it would be tremendously overcrowded. The Mental Hospital as it is itself is already overcrowded and unless another block is built or almost twice as large a space is added, I feel there is not going to be an improvement at all.

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: Mr. Speaker, I would say that the time has come when we should stop using the word "asylum". It is that word which is causing trouble all the time because a mental disease is a nervous disease and we can just say that we are sending a patient to a nervous hospital or mental hospital; but if we keep on saying that we are sending him to an asylum, it gives a connotation which is very degrading. It definitely shows that the man has got the nuts. But the time has come when you should exercise yourselves—(interruption). Well, I do not know if somebody exercises himself—he becomes mad—though we know that some people may be living in the hospital and yet they may not be mentally defective.

I suggest that the Minister should consider our points very seriously and give in.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Withdraw.

The question that the Bill intituled "An Ordinance further to amend the Lunatic Asylums Ordinance" be read a second time was put, and the House divided; Ayes, 20; Noes, 13; Abstentions, 1.

Ayes

Ampadu, Mr. R. A.
Armitage, R. P., Minister of
Finance.

Arthur, Mr. W. E.

Asare, Mr. F. Y.

Attafuah, Mr. A. E.

Bensah, Mr. E. K.

Botsio, Kojo, Minister of
Education and Social Welfare

Braimah, J. A., Minister of
Communications and Works.

Branigan, P. F., Minister of
Justice.

Casely-Hayford, A., Minister
of Agriculture and Natural
Resources.

Donkoh, Mr. J. K.

Edusei, Mr. Krobo

Fiawoo, Rev. F. K., Deputy
Speaker.

Gbedemah, K. A., Minister
of Commerce and Indus-
try.

Hagan, Mr. J. E.

Hutton-Mills, T., Minister
of Health.

Mensah, Mr. Atta.

Nkrumah, Dr. Kwame,
Prime Minister and
Minister of Development.

Ohene-Djan.

Norton-Jones, E., Minister
Responsible for Defence
and External Affairs.

Noes

Abubekr, Mr. N. B.

Awuah, Mr. J. B.

Awuma, Mr. G. O.

Biney, Mr. A. P.

Boakye, Mr. A. R.

Dadson, Mr. E. K.

Fitz-Gerald, Mr. P. H.

Kodzo, Mr. J.

Kusi, Mr. B. F.

Lampsey, Mr. J. K.

Ofori Atta, Mr. W. E. A.

Poku, Mr. B. K.

Quashie, Mr. J. K. A.

Abstentions

Jantuah, Mr. J. E.

The Bill was accordingly read a second time and committed to a committee of the whole House.

10 a.m.

BILL IN COMMITTEE

Clauses 1 and 2 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

The Long Title ordered to stand part of the Bill.

House resumed.

Bill reported without amendment, read a third time and passed into law.

*The Royal West African Frontier Force (Military Units)
Ordinance, 1953—Second Reading*

MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR DEFENCE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (MR. E. NORTON-JONES): I beg to move that:

“ An Ordinance to make provision for the assimilation of the military units established under the Military Units Ordinance, 1942, into the Gold Coast Regiment of the Royal West African Frontier Force and to provide for the establishment of other units within such Regiment; and for other purposes connected therewith ”

be read a second time.

The Military Forces of the Gold Coast consists on the one hand of companies of infantry and artillery under the title of the Gold Coast Regiment and on the other hand of supporting arms and ancillary services organised into Military Units. These Units were raised during the Second World War to ensure that the Gold Coast Military formations should become a self-contained fighting force. Among the Military formations which were established as Military Units there were the Regiment of Artillery, the Corps of Engineers, the Corps of Signals, the Army Services Corps, the Army Medical Corps, the Army Ordinance Corps, the Corps of Military Police, the Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and the Army Education Corps.

Under the provisions of the Military Units Ordinance, the members of these Military Units were liable for service for the duration of the Second World War and for a period of 12 months after the termination of that war. Honourable Members will be surprised to learn that so far as the British Commonwealth was concerned—(interruption).

MR. QUASHIE: On a point of order. This is an important Bill and there is no quorum.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there no quorum? The Whips must try and get the people in, otherwise I will have to adjourn. (Business was held up for two minutes).

MR. KWESI LAMPTEY: It is two minutes and the House cannot be made.

MR. SPEAKER: I will wait a bit. (A long pause). Mr. Chief Whip, I understand Members refused to come—is it true? If that is true then I will have to adjourn. They refuse to come in because they do not feel to work after the announcements have been made. That is what I understand. (Another pause during which some Members came in). See whether there is a quorum now.

MR. NORTON-JONES rose—

10.15 a.m.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Gentlemen, take notice that if you walk out again I will not wait beyond the 2 minutes prescribed by the Standing Orders.

MR. NORTON-JONES: Mr. Speaker, I would like to start my last sentence again. Honourable Members will be surprised to learn that as far as the British Commonwealth was concerned the Second World War was terminated on the 28th of April, 1952. I say that Honourable Members will be surprised to hear this news because this momentous event occurred without any fan-fare of trumpets and indeed without notice to the man in the street. The reason for the occurrence of this particular event on this particular day was the signing on that day of a Treaty of Peace between the British and the Japanese Governments. That Treaty was the culmination of a series of declarations by the British Government, both by way of Treaty and by way of announcement that the British Government was no longer at war with her enemies. Thus unless legal measures are immediately taken, the liability of members for service in the Military Units will cease on the 28th day of April, 1953 and these Units will have to be disbanded. To disband these Units would not only render many men to be unemployed but would also reduce the Gold Coast Regiment from a modern fighting machine to the status of a Militia or even of a Special Constabulary. I ask for the support of Honourable Members, first to continue the existence of the Military Units and second to assimilate those Units into the Gold Coast Regiment.

I beg to move.

MR. R. A. AMPADU: I beg to second.

Motion made, and question proposed, that the Bill be read a second time.

In the absence of any speeches, the question was put, and agreed to, and the Bill was read a second time.

Bill committed to a committee of the whole House.

Bill in committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 3:

MR. YEBOA-AFARI: I have just one question to ask. We read from one of the local papers that because of the progress in the Gold Coast, there are certain West African Colonies that envy the Gold Coast and therefore the French Government and the Gold Coast Government have thought it wise to have one unit which is now practising at Bondugu. I want to know how far that is true.

MR. NORTON-JONES: It is a fact, Sir, that a Company of the Gold Coast Regiment has been carrying out a military exercise with our neighbours and our friends, the French. In this exercise the defending army is supposed to round up parachute troops which had been dropped in advance of an invading army against the Gold Coast. It is a purely routine exercise which we are undertaking with our neighbours.

Clause 3 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clauses 4 and 5 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

The Long Title ordered to stand part of the Bill.

The House resumed.

Bill reported without amendment, read a third time and passed into law.

*An Ordinance to amend the Chattels Transfer Ordinance, 1952—
Second Reading*

MINISTER OF JUSTICE (MR. BRANIGAN): I beg to move that the Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Chattels Transfer Ordinance, 1952" be read a second time.

When the Chattels Transfer Ordinance, 1952 was passed by this Assembly last year, it was expected that the Bankruptcy Bill would be enacted at the same time, and on that assumption the Chattels Transfer Ordinance contained references not only to an Official Receiver and Trustee for Bankruptcy, but to the Bankruptcy Ordinance, 1952. However, as Honourable Members are aware, that assumption was proved false, and the Bankruptcy Bill was rejected by the Assembly. It is therefore necessary now to amend the Chattels Transfer Ordinance, 1952 and to delete the references therein to Bankruptcy and the Bankruptcy Ordinance.

In preparing the Bill to achieve this amendment the opportunity has been taken to propose an extension of the provisions of the Chattels Transfer Ordinance to Instruments executed before the commencement of that Ordinance. Honourable Members will recollect that the principal Ordinance only applied to instruments executed after the Ordinance came into operation. Now, this proposed extension will enable these instruments to be registered and will thus entitle existing instruments to the priority afforded by the Ordinance to instruments registered under it.

It was also considered that six weeks will be a reasonable time to allow for the registration of existing documents and for the sake of uniformity the period for ordinary registration which was previously three weeks is now proposed to be extended to six weeks also.

There was a typographical error in section 38 of the Principal Ordinance and the opportunity has been taken to correct this typographical error.

I beg to move.

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: I beg to second.

Motion made, and question proposed, that the Bill be read a second time.

10.30 a.m.

MR. YEBOA-AFARI: I believe that the purpose of the whole Chattels Transfer Ordinance is to arrange proper methods for the transactions between the money lender and the borrower. As the Minister stated, all those transactions that take place after the passage of the Bill come under the Bill, but I want to know what happens to those transactions which had been executed long before the introduction of this Bill. Because in this country our illiterate people especially have been ill-treated mostly by money lenders who obtain licences from the Government with a view to helping the poor people, but in reality extort them. I want to know what happens to these people because already, some people illegally sell other people's farms and houses. The cocoa brokers or money-lenders have sold people's lands and cocoa farms, and for this reason the cocoa industry is suffering a very serious setback. There are cases where a person borrows say £500 from a money-lender and apart from £50 which is taken as rum on the spot, he is made to sign a document stating that he had borrowed about £750 because at times interest paid is 50 per cent and in some extreme cases the amount is doubled. Then the next year if he has to pay about £200 it is taken again as rum quite apart from the main debt. I have known cases where an amount of £700 loan has increased to £2,000 within two years—

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: It is not true!

ANOTHER HONOURABLE MEMBER: It is true.

MR. AFARI:—and so we want the Minister to take a very serious view of these unscrupulous money-lenders because their acts make it possible for a man who has never gone to a farm to become the cocoa farm owner, whilst the man in the bush is forced into debt and has to leave the farm. It means that the producers—those who made the farms—will no more make new farms and those who become the owners of the farms will not go to the bush to start new ones, and in this way, the future of our industry will suffer a great deal of hardship. So we appeal to the Minister to take a definite and bold step to help these poor people.

MR. PETERS: My question to the Honourable Minister is more of a technical nature. I would like to have information from him as to how the existing forms could be registered, as they are unlikely to be in the form shown in the Schedule; and if the new instruments are to be made, how could grantors be compelled to execute if no provision has already been made in the original instrument? If priority is from date of registration an instrument executed prior to the Ordinance may be deferred. I suggest that the effective date should be the date when the original instrument was entered into, and that registration should date back to that day.

Mr. KUSI: In supporting the Member for Sunyani, I would like to draw the Minister's attention to this anomaly, that especially in the rural areas and some parts of the country, it is the practice of the money lenders to give say £100 and then ask the person raising the loan to give a document stating that he has received £145 plus interest of £5 making a total of £150; and if this person is unable to pay the whole amount he is asked to pay interest of £50 even without receipt and then the original document reads that he has £150 to pay the following year; if he is not able to pay the following year, he has to pay another £100 making a total of £250.- I will suggest to the Minister to conduct a very strong investigation to see and check these anomalies, because if this is not done, then the system could not be checked because it will be a transaction between the man who is raising the loan and the money lender—a mutual agreement. This is so because the borrower is forced by poverty to raise this money. So if the Minister really intends to help these poor farmers who are raising loans from "Shylock" money lenders, then he must find a way out to check this anomaly, otherwise I do not think he can do any good at all to the people.

Mr. KODZO: Though I am not on the Government Bench, I think what the Honourable Member has said cannot really be put into practice. If the Minister should take steps to see that borrowers are not cheated, it means that the borrower must first go to see the Minister and arrange with him before he goes to take the loan. (*Uproar*). I do not think the Minister who is staying in Accra can go about and check these anomalies. The borrower should defend his own case; he should see that he is not cheated. If you go to raise a loan and you are asked to pay an interest which you consider exorbitant, it is for you to go back and not take the money; otherwise you will be cheated.

Mr. BRANIGAN: If I may first deal with the points raised by Honourable Members regarding the exorbitant rates of interest sometimes charged by money lenders, I should like to say that this Bill, and the principal Ordinance which it seeks to amend, are not concerned with that at all; it does not provide for rates of interest to be charged. The purpose of the Ordinance is to see that where a person takes a mortgage on chattels, on a motor-car for instance, if he registers that instrument in the register, then he has priority over anyone else who may advance money on the same motor-car. That is the main purpose of the law. But if Honourable Members wish to pursue the question of exorbitant rates of interest on money lent to borrowers, then there would have to be a totally different law enacted, fixing the maximum rates of interest to be charged and making it a criminal offence to exceed them. But this is not a simple matter or one as easy to remedy as the Honourable Members seem to think; because one has to take into account the risks which the lender is taking in lending his money, and the lender has got to see that those risks which his business requires are set off

[MR. BRANIGAN]

by his rate of interest. I merely mentioned that in explanation and not in support at all of the exorbitant rates of interest charged. I do not at all defend them; but I merely mentioned this to show that the problem is not quite so simple a one as Honourable Members might think. In any case, it is entirely outside the purpose of the Bill with which we are now dealing.

The Honourable Third Member for Commerce raised some interesting points. With regard to the first question he asked, viz., as to what form the instrument may take and whether the form of the old instrument executed some years ago would come within the requirements of the principal Ordinance, I should say that the point will be covered under section 22 of the principal Ordinance. If the Honourable Member will refer to that section, he will see that it refers to an instrument in the form numbered (4) in the First Schedule "or to the like effect", in other words, the instrument has not got to be in the identical terms of the form in the Schedule, but "to the like effect". But there is a point which I would have been glad to hear from the Honourable Third Member for Commerce and the Honourable the Third Member for Mines on the whole question of the main amendment to this Bill, namely, to extend this provision to instruments executed before the coming into operation of the principal Ordinance. But it does seem to me that there are advantages and disadvantages, to a holder of an instrument executed some years ago, in applying the provisions of the Ordinance to that instrument. Because, while it does give him priority if he registers within six weeks of the coming into operation of this Ordinance—and that is an advantage, and a great advantage, something that he has not had before—yet if he fails to exercise his new-given rights under this amending Bill within that time limit of six weeks he might suffer a disadvantage. His position may have been made somewhat worse. That is my own view of the law and as I said, I would have been glad to have heard the Third Member for Mines who is a practising lawyer and the Honourable Member for Commerce on that particular point. I should be glad to have their advice because it is something which cannot be answered in theory alone by a lawyer. The question of the balance in advantages can only be answered in the light of practical experience and knowledge of Bills of Sales and Chattels Transfers already in existence and of the likelihood of the holders of these instruments taking advantage of the six weeks laid down and having them registered under this Ordinance. I have, however, to do the best I can in this matter and decide what I think on the whole is an advantage to the holder of these instruments; and on balance I have come to the view that it would be preferable to give them this right of registering their instruments under the new law. But I am not entirely free from doubt on this point.

Question put, and agreed to, and the Bill read a second time.

Bill committed to a committee of the whole House.
Bill in committee.

Clauses 1 to 6 and the Long Title ordered to stand part of the Bill.
House resumed.

10.45 a.m.

Bill reported without amendment, read a third time and passed into law.

The Local Loans Ordinance, 1953—Second Reading

MR. ARMITAGE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill intituled "An Ordinance to make provision for raising loans in the Gold Coast" be read a second time.

When we were debating the Bank of the Gold Coast Ordinance I explained that one of the first activities that the Bank would have to undertake would be to act as the agent of the Government when floating loans raised locally in the Gold Coast. This Bill therefore is the next step in enabling the Bank to carry out those functions. But it is even more important because it will give the opportunity for the public in the Gold Coast to subscribe capital for the development of their own country. This will also give the occasion for a first step to be taken in starting a local money market or finance market here in the Gold Coast.

We hope that when this Bill has been passed we should be able later this year to raise our first loan in the Gold Coast. The Bill is an enabling one. It enables loans to be raised by a resolution of this Assembly from time to time as the Government require for development projects. I would like to explain that when applications are invited for a loan there will be no restriction on the source of application. This is very important because some of the applicants will want later to sell their holdings in the loan and we want to be able to have a freely negotiable market for holdings of this loan. Incidentally, the Bank will not be able to screen where the applicant came from and what his objects were in applying for a loan, but we shall ensure that applicants for small sums are given priority. It is local money that the Government are hoping will come to be subscribed to this loan and in particular we want Africans in the Gold Coast to produce money to assist in developing their own country.

We are making arrangements that the loan will be marketable through the Bank which will buy any portion of the loan which a holder wishes to sell. It will then be free for anyone to buy from the Bank the amounts that it holds. Arrangements are being made with the Cocoa Marketing Board to stand behind the Bank in this matter. This is obviously most important. We want to give the certainty of stability, of confidence for this loan and so the Bank will buy at par and sell at par any holdings that any man wants to sell or buy respectively.

[MR. ARMITAGE]

Finally, Honourable Members must have seen that the Sinking Fund contribution is the rather high proportion of two and half per cent. Again this is a matter of prudent finance. It is quite clear that we have got to produce confidence in loans raised here because unless the people who lend their money to the Government know that they are going to get it back they will not lend it. So it is proposed that a Sinking Fund charge of two and half per cent will be imposed which will enable more than half of a loan for a period of 20 years to be available for redeeming that loan when it reaches maturity. I think that this will be regarded as a very prudent step and will give confidence to lenders of money.

I think that this matter is not a controversial one and I will not elaborate it any further but I would like to reiterate that this is only an enabling Bill and that from time to time this Assembly will be asked to approve the actual loans and the terms on which they are raised.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move.

MR. OHENE-DJAN: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second.

Motion made and question proposed, that the Bill be read a second time.

MR. BEDIAKO POKU: I think that we appreciate the fact that the Government have introduced this Bill because the country now wants money for development. But while we are appreciating the step I would like the Government also to take into consideration the amount of money that is being saved in the country now. During the war there was vigorous propaganda and advertisement asking the people to save more in the Savings Bank but immediately after the war this was stopped.

Now that the Government are in need of money I will ask the Minister concerned to try either to introduce a Bill in this House asking all to save compulsorily or to try to ginger up the savings campaign. In my constituency I have repeatedly appealed to the Director of Posts and Telecommunications to see that the Savings Van visits the people. On many occasions these people cry for the Savings Van but the van does not visit them. So I am asking the Minister that while he is introducing this Bill for borrowing, compulsory savings should also be introduced into the country.

MR. ARMITAGE: I do not want to say anything more than that I fully agree with the Honourable Member that savings should be much encouraged and we will certainly link a savings campaign with any question of floating a loan.

Question put and agreed to and the Bill read a second time.

Bill committed to a committee of the whole House.

Bill in committee.

Clauses 1 and 2 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 3 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clauses 4 and 5 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clauses 6, 7 and 8 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clauses 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 16 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 17:

MR. ARMITAGE: Mr. Chairman I have one amendment to make; it is a typographical error and I wish to correct it. Under clause 17 the comma after the word "interest" in line two should be deleted.

Clause 17 as amended ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 18 ordered to stand part of the Bill.

The Long Title ordered to stand part of the Bill.

11 a.m.

House resumed.

Bill reported with one amendment, read a third time and passed into law.

*The Diamond Mining Industry Protection (Amendment)
Ordinance, 1953*

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (MR. K. A. GBEDEMAH): I beg to move the second reading of the Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Diamond Mining Industry Protection Ordinance".

As Honourable Members are aware there has recently been a very rapid expansion in the African Diamond Industry. It has been the concern of Government not only to increase the efficiency of the industry but also to ensure that it develops in an orderly manner, because diamonds are small and easily removed and concealed and extremely valuable in relation to their size. The industry is one in which measures have to be taken against thefts and against the removal and marketing of diamonds along unauthorised channels.

The object of this Bill is to check activities which have been occurring by imposing a greater measure of control over diamond digging and mining operations.

The Bill is designed to protect both persons legitimately engaged in the industry and Government revenue from losses due to removal of diamonds by unauthorised persons.

[MR. GBEDEMAH]

Clause 2 of the Bill which as Honourable Members will observe, is the substance of the amendment, provides for a new section 2 (a) under the Diamond Mining Industry Protection Ordinance, the purposes of which are:—

(1) To make it illegal for persons other than licensed dealers who do not hold valid licences or written authority in an approved form from holders of such licences to be in a possession of diamonds, diamond bearing gravel or diamond bearing concentrate at any time of the day or night.

(2) To make such licence holders responsible for refusing to permit persons whom they have not authorised in writing to operate in these areas.

(3) To prohibit without special permission the mining or winning of diamonds, diamond bearing gravel and diamond bearing concentrate during the hours of darkness; and

(4) To define the word "licence" for the purposes of this Bill.

It is confidently anticipated that these provisions will go a long way towards stamping out the illicit winning or trading in diamonds, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move.

MINISTERIAL SECRETARY TO THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (MR. E. K. BENSAN):
I beg to second the motion.

Motion made, and question proposed, that the Bill be read a second time.

MR. DADSON: It is worthwhile to say a word of praise to the Minister for his good intentions in bringing such a law into being to protect the Diamond Industry. But I should say in the same breath that his intentions are produced in theory which in fact will not work in practice.

I happen to be the man who brought into being the Diamond Winners Association. There are diamond winners in my constituency, and most of them live solely by the winning of diamonds. I know a few things both here and in the United Kingdom about the Diamond Industry, and if I should be given the time I would explain to Honourable Members in order that they might understand the implications in this industry.

I refer to this journal which I have in my hand—the Journal of Gemnology. This journal is the property of a few, a collected few, in the United Kingdom who do not at all deal in diamonds. Their interest is to see whether there are any precious stones in the United Kingdom and so they always go out and search for stones to examine them to see whether there are any spots in the United Kingdom where precious stones can be found. Such a body can be formed here; but here there is a Bill which prohibits anybody going in to handle anything of that nature in the field.

[MR. DADSON]

Here I read, with your permission Mr. Speaker, something from a pamphlet called "A bi-monthly Survey of Commonwealth and Colonial Affairs", page 4.

"The Conference agreed that every effort should be made to encourage investment from outside the sterling area".

That is the United Kingdom saying this: "*outside the sterling area*". You can afford to encourage people to come to this country to invest, "especially the United States". Put in black and white—

"Sterling area Governments should strive to attain this by reducing controls over movements of capital across the exchanges".

That is what they say. Great Britain wants that; they who are already capitalists want this and we in the Gold Coast close our eyes to it.

When I was in the United Kingdom, if I should borrow my Honourable Friend's phrase (*laughter*), I had the opportunity of visiting regularly where diamonds are sold and diamonds are handled freely by the people in the United Kingdom. You can just handle a diamond like this in the United Kingdom except the polished ones which are ready for use in the industries; diamond in crude form is handled by anybody in the United Kingdom. But if it is because we produce it here that we are going to be restricted, then I feel that this measure is too drastic.

I had the opportunity of meeting a Mr. Reed, who is the Assistant Manager of the Bank of British West Africa in the United Kingdom and who handles the sale of diamonds there. I was present there one day when he conducted the sale of diamonds from the Gold Coast. Also I had the pleasure of meeting a Mr. White who demonstrated to me how diamond is valued. So when I say that I know a few things about diamonds, I am saying that on facts. Mr. White was the then Valuer who has retired. The Minister's intention is to protect the diamonds from being pilfered; but the question is, can this Bill which is being introduced into this House to-day protect the diamonds from being pilfered? The answer is emphatically no! We feel that this is a biased Bill, it is intended only to protect the interest of a company in this country as against the African interest. I know the feeling is strong. Those who are concerned are feeling it. I know that the intention is only to protect that one company and not the African industry. The other day when in this House we read through (*interruption*)—I think that was last year—we were able to discover that Africans had contributed enormous sums of money into the coffers of the Government. But why do we now seek to protect them? I think the

[MR. DADSON]

Africans have formed themselves into an association and they could have been equally consulted on this matter. But what happened? When we were in his Ministry—the Minister can bear me out—and had discussions, he only spoke about providing good water; he only spoke about how we could engage people; but this question which he feels is anomalous to the interest of the African was not discussed at all. It is a pity. I move therefore, Honourable Members, without any bias, that this Bill be not read this day six months (hear! hear!). Now what are my reasons? I just cannot say this, but I have got reasons for saying so. What are the reasons? Now the Bill reads:—

“ No person (interruption).

MR. QUASHIE: On a point of order. Is he saying that this Bill should not be read this day six months?

MR. DADSON: This Bill be read this day six months. Now I will read the Bill. Look at the margin note of the Bill: “ Restrictions on the possession and winning of diamonds, etc ”. That is the same gradual process by which even alluvial gold cannot now be handled by an African. That is the same process; and gradually as we go along, there will come a time when only the monopolistic capitalists will come and win diamonds as against the African. It is coming; just mark it, it is coming. Now—

“ No person shall have in his possession any diamonds, diamond-bearing gravel or diamond-bearing concentrate unless he is the holder of a valid licence or has a written authority in a form approved by the Chief Inspector of Mines ”.

It goes on :—

“ No holder of a valid licence shall engage or knowingly permit any person to mine, search for or win diamonds or diamond-bearing gravel or to prepare diamond-bearing concentrate in the area which is the subject of such licence without providing such person with a written authority, in a form approved by the Chief Inspector of Mines, so to do ”.

I would ask the Minister if he can think of any one person who is a licensed diamond prospector in this country. We have not got one, and it is only those quasi-diamond prospectors that have been engaged to prospect diamonds. When these people go to the field, they do it in that crude manner and the Chief Inspector of Mines also likes to know somebody who is qualified before he gives him the licence, and unless you prospect you would not know whether a land is diamondiferous. I do not see the reason why we should provide this in the Bill. The best thing to do is to allow the owner of the land to prospect for diamonds, but he is rather being restricted. You say he should not work from 6 o'clock in the evening to 6 o'clock the next morning. This man goes to the field and works with about 100 labourers who may be able to dig some

[MR. DADSON]

earth which is diamond bearing concentrate; but when they are not able to finish the work they are forced to leave the diamond bearing concentrate—I mean the earth—in the field and go home because it is 6 o'clock. Anybody could come behind them and take this diamond bearing concentrate away. If these gentlemen can collect the diamond bearing concentrate and leave the field for home they will be arrested on the way by the policeman because they are not to do that according to the law. What would happen? He is in a fix. He cannot do anything.

11.15 a.m.

Now, diamonds are such minute gems and can be carried in any part of a man's apparel, so that such protective measures do not in any way work at all. You say he should not go there at six o'clock, but he can get this diamond and put it even in his shoes, socks, coat and you will not suspect him. I can suspect that even if some of us here are to be searched diamonds can be discovered, but you know that nobody here has diamond. That is not the way you can protect diamond here. No company has reported that its diamond is being stolen by the people who are engaged in this business and you are bringing this Bill which is inimical to the interest of the African diamond winners. You cannot refute this. If these people feel that their diamond is being stolen let them engage more policemen. We cannot go to that extent. This Bill cannot control the illicit dealings in diamond at all. Already protective measures exist but what have they done? Diamond is still being stolen. So I shall tell you how we can protect the diamond.

Most of the Africans have not got enough money. They pay about £100, get the land from the Chief Inspector of Mines, and they pay all that out to their labourers. They win a few carats of diamond which are deposited with the banks and they are paid about 75 per cent of the cost of the diamond. These diamonds are deposited in the United Kingdom for months and it takes about two, three, three and a half months before the returns come and before this these people go bankrupt because they go aborrowing. They have nothing in their pockets. Sometimes they are told that there is nothing at all in the returns for them. They sell to anybody in the street any diamond that they win during the interim in order to make a living. And that is how diamond is pilfered. The diamond then finds its way to Takoradi Harbour where it is sold.

If Government want to protect diamond, they should not run the risk of a Diamond Syndicate or Diamond Marketing Board. You may say that is absurd, but I will tell you the reason why I said so. In the United Kingdom there is a company called

[MR. DADSON]

de Beers This company controls all the diamonds in the whole world—not only in the United Kingdom—in the world except, the Gold Coast and I think Sierra Leone, but they control the diamonds from India, South Africa, East Africa. As soon as we undertake to buy diamonds ourselves in this country and take the trade away from the banks, what would happen is that we may buy about £500,000 worth of diamond this year with the view that next year the price will rise. As soon as this people see that there is a stranger or interference in the trade they will flood the market with the Gold Coast type of diamonds so that the price will fall at once. If they buy it at say £1 a carat they can sell it at even 10s. The Government will then commit this country to a very heavy national debt. You cannot pay it and you will ask the diamond winners to pay this amount by way of compelling them to reduce their diamond to the minimum so that you can buy and sell at 10s. or 15s. to any interested person so that you will be able to pay the national debt. Will you not by that make the people suffer more and more? That will not help at all. If the Government want to take a hand in the diamond trade I should warn them to-day. I say de Beers are ready with their eagle's eyes watching and if they see any stranger or interference they will break the trade. They played the same trick on a Mr. Williamson and that was the reason why last year the diamond winners suffered a lot. When at the bar I agreed with the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Commerce that it was not the diamond winners alone who suffered but the banks also suffered. Because they put a lot of diamonds on the market that the diamond the winners were able to sell could fetch nothing at all. They flooded the market because they wanted to buy up Mr. Williamson and he is now compelled to sell his diamond willy-nilly to them.

Now, lastly, I will tell you how we can solve this problem. It is only a private enterpriser that can solve this problem for us. Let us look round the four corners of the world—and I tell you that there are people who have got money, have companies which have got money and which enjoy integrity and public reputation. These people can come here and establish here and buy diamonds here. Some of them are even diamond consumers themselves: they can buy the diamonds and make them into precision tools and do any amount of work with the diamond, and it will be a blessing to the Gold Coast to export diamond in a finished form to other countries to buy. If anybody went to the field and he was able to win just a carat of diamond he could go straight to the purchasing agency and deposit it there and he would be paid there and then. The next day if he had another carat he could make a living out of that. The Government could put any number of people there to watch their interests. That is the only way we can solve our problems. If that one individual comes here and loses, it is not the company

[MR. DADSON]

that has lost. By doing this we can keep up the price of diamond so that we will not sell at the prevailing price which the world can give to diamond.

I sound this warning and I move that this Bill be read this day six months. If we do not do it we are running a national risk and that is my warning.

MR. A. R. BOAKYE: I am seconding the motion moved by the Member for Tarkwa, and I am saying that this Bill before us is a dangerous Bill. Yesterday we introduced a motion in this House. It was introduced by the Honourable Member for Tarkwa. We were against the idea of vesting power in the Chief Inspector of Mines and we said that the African, before the advent of the white man knew how to win diamonds. We had our crude method of winning diamond and we felt that there were so many legislations debarring the African from partaking of the winning of diamond. We suggested to this House that ways and means must be devised whereby the African would go about things in the ordinary way until such time that he would be sufficiently financial to be able to use the modern instruments, which are used by the Mining Companies. It was agreed upon in this House that the Africans should be allowed to use their own crude method of winning diamond. I feel that in another way we are being cornered to agree to this Bill and the moment this Bill is accepted in this House and passed into law it means the motion that was proposed by the Member for Tarkwa and agreed upon by this House becomes useless. Now, what I know is that this Bill in fact is not coming to the House for our approval in the interest of the people of this country. It is only trying to seek our approval in order to guide the capitalists who are in fact usurping our mineral resources. We are afraid that if we do not take care and kick away this Bill right now and allow ourselves to be persuaded in any way we shall be selling our own birthright to foreign capitalists. We cannot in about 10 years to come be able to use these modern methods of winning diamond. I quite remember when we visited Akwatia last year we were told that our African winners used certain methods which resulted in some of the diamond being left in the ground because they had not got modern implements for winning diamond. They tried to convince us and told us that the methods the Africans were using were not good at all. Now, how can Africans come together and invest in a business such as the one obtaining in Akwatia now? The machines that the people are using there will cost about £½ million or more and I do not think any African in about 20 years time will be able to employ that capital in winning diamond in this country. We are very proud of our own country, and we are here and this Bill is telling us that if we are in this country and we have diamond in our own hands

[MR. BOAKYE]

we will be arrested. This thing was done in the case of gold and I am sure that most Africans are afraid to possess gold. In our own African Cabinet we are bringing this Bill and I feel that it has not been taken seriously and those of us having the interest of the people of this country will never agree. I think the best thing the Minister would do is to withdraw this Bill now to avoid a defeat of the Government.

Motion made, and question proposed that the Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Diamond Mining Industry Protection Ordinance" be read this day six months.

MR. ATTAFUAH: My Honourable Friend, the Member for Tarkwa has already dealt efficiently with this motion before the House and so I am not going to labour very much but I would say in short that this Bill does not in any way support the diamond industry in this country as far as Africans are concerned; it rather seeks the interest of the capitalist miners and not the Africans. We know already the wide powers of the Chief Inspector of Mines in respect of the issue and renewal of licences to the African diamond diggers. He can refuse them without assigning any reasons at all and here too we are asked to give further powers to the Chief Inspector of Mines. Section 2A: "No person shall have in his possession any diamonds, diamond-bearing gravel or diamond-bearing concentrate unless he is the holder of a valid licence or has a written authority, in a form approved by the Chief Inspector of Mines . . .". The Chief Inspector of Mines can refuse as long as he has the power to issue licences to the African diamond winners.

Here again, subsection (2): "No holder of a valid licence shall engage or knowingly permit any person to mine, search for or win diamonds or diamond-bearing gravel or to prepare diamond-bearing concentrate in the area which is the subject of such licence without providing such person with a written authority, in a form approved by the Chief Inspector of Mines, so to do".

11.30 a.m.

This is another serious point, another critical point. Again, the Chief Inspector has the right to refuse this too unless you appeal to the Minister who because of his numerous duties cannot have time to deal with the matter at the very moment that the digger is asking for the licence or anything for his labourers to work with.

Now section 3: "No person shall, between the hour of six in the evening of any day and hour of six in the following morning, without the written authority of the Chief Inspector of Mines . . .". What are we doing? Are we selling our rights to the capitalist miners? I know of a case which happened somewhere last year when a certain woman in the Abuakwa area—in the Adankromu Village—who had gone to market and on her return found that her

[MR. ATTAFUAH]

water was finished and so she got down to a stream to drink water. But the labourers who were working on the mines arrested her for having gone to the stream. This woman was sent to Asamankese Court and she had to engage a Counsel before she was acquitted. She was sent to court because she went there to drink; in fact the case was tried and not even a theft charge was proved against the woman. In fairness, if this Government which are supposed to be an African Government are really seeking the interests of the African diamond winners, the only way to do it is to give the African diamond winners some subsidy. Give them money to work; order machines for them to work with; in that way only shall we know that this Ordinance really seeks to protect the interests of the African diamond winners; but not in this way.

In going further, Mr. Speaker, I think last year there was a motion before the House seeking the approval of this Government to remove certain restrictions in order to encourage African winners to take more active part in the diamond industry, but up till now we have not seen what the Government are doing about it. And to-day we are being asked to approve of such an amendment to the Diamond Ordinance when we who live in those diamond areas know the difficulty of the workers; the diamond winners themselves who hold licences cannot go to work; they have to employ labourers and as my Honourable Friend has already remarked, when these labourers get the concentrate they cannot leave it, because if they do so some people will go behind them and steal it; and so some of them sleep by the concentrate for three or four days in the field without going home at all for fear that if they left the place the whole thing would be stolen. And you bring such a law which instead of protecting it, is rather giving people the chance to go and steal it. But you say it is going to protect the industry; it is not going to protect it in any form or shape at all.

I think my Honourable Friends are very anxious to speak on this subject too. So I say that it only seeks to protect the interests of the capitalist miners and not the African diamond winners.

Mr. B. K. POKU: We are in a land of gold and diamond and I am very much surprised to see this Bill, because according to it if you are found in possession of a diamond you are regarded as a criminal. If you were to visit the prison—the Central Prison in Accra—you would see that the greater number of the prisoners come from Akwatia. Why? Because many people go to this town to win diamond, and as soon as they are seen with diamond in their possession they are given nine months imprisonment. There was a very important man in this town; he was holding a licence for winning diamonds. He submitted an application to the Inspector of Mines for renewal, but his application was refused. A day or two after his application was refused, this man was searched

[Mr. POKU]

and a number of diamonds were found in his possession. He was taken to Court and he is now serving a sentence of nine months in prison at Accra. Is this fair? I would like to know from the Minister whether a law like this exists in England.

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: No!

MR. POKU: We are at this moment copying Britain in her way of Government and legislation. The only mineral in Britain is coal and no law prevents any person in Britain to be in possession of coal and so when you are in possession of coal, you do not go to gaol. All along, the laws of the country have been protecting British trade and such a law introduced by our own African Ministers is obnoxious. The cry of the country against this Bill is just like the cry against the Sedition Ordinance.

MR. JANTUAH: Hear! Hear! Hear! —Bad Bill!

MR. POKU: So I am suggesting that this Bill is not wanted by any person in this country. In my constituency, there is a piece of land full of diamonds; it is on the geological map too. People go there, they do not even value the diamond, they pick it up and use it in most cases in their charms. Tomorrow if this Bill is passed anybody in possession of a charm which contains diamond goes to prison—nine months imprisonment—

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: With hard labour!

MR. POKU: —and no appeal will even release him. The Government should have introduced a Bill which will protect the African diamond winners rather and not to bring such a Bill at all.

The Government have not done anything. It was suggested here by the Honourable Member for Tarkwa that the Government should try and help the African diamond winners; the Government have not done anything about it but to-day they have brought in a Bill to protect capitalists.

SOME HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Shame! Shame! Shame!

MR. POKU: The Minister also is aware according to clause 3 of this Bill—

“No person shall, between the hour of six in the evening”

that in this country some Syrians employ Africans at unusual hours; they employ them for long hours when there is legislation that every worker should work for 48 hours in the week; but the Syrians employ people from 6 o'clock in the morning and they close at times 8 o'clock in the night. You have not brought any legislation here to protect the interest of these labourers. Syrian clerks have not got anything to help them. Then you bring a law

[MR. POKU]

to protect capitalists. Is this fair? So we are appealing to our Government to withdraw this Bill or we shall vote completely against it.

MR. YEBOAH-AFARI: In the midst of plenty, the people of this country are poor.

MR. KROBO EDUSEI: Absolutely poor!

MR. YEBOAH-AFARI: Last year the Honourable Member, the mover of the motion, moved in this House that Government should alleviate the difficulties involved in obtaining a plot for winning diamonds. I think it was the first private Member's motion and the whole of this House supported that motion. But because that was in the interest of the African, we have not heard anything about it till now. When I first saw this amendment I thought it was in connection with that motion, so I was happy. But when I went through I found that it rather adds more difficulties in the way of African diamond winners. So we humbly suggest to the Minister—we have to be humble to him—that this motion be accepted because the African position in this country is very very absurd. We have gold here—the country is called Gold Coast—but even we are prevented from digging gold. Our people cannot dig for gold. Diamond too, we are going to be prevented from handling. You know that we are no experts; there is no school here for studying how to win diamonds and so it is only on the field that a person will know how to win diamonds. If we are prevented from handling these diamonds, then it means we have no other chance of becoming experienced in the industry.

Now I have one point which I want to make in this House to-day. Whenever an industry is being brought into this country by the capitalists, the Government are always prepared to assist in every way possible. During the war people were growing tobacco—I myself grew tobacco—but no encouragement was given. When it was learnt that somebody was coming to start tobacco industry at Sekondi it came in a Government statement that they were going to encourage the growth of tobacco. All these things must be considered. As this is the initial stage of Africans taking part in this industry, the Government should seek their interests and not the interests of the Europeans only. I am not suggesting that we should not seek the interest of the Europeans, but the interests of the indigenous African must be first sought. So I support the Honourable Member for Tarkwa.

MR. KUSI: I would like to know from the Minister the purpose of introducing this Bill. We are in our own country and we are denied the right of possession of diamonds. There is no reason for it except that the Minister or the Government want to

[MR. KUSI]

tell us that we are here to protect the interest of the capitalists or foreign investors. If Africans in the Gold Coast are denied the right of possession of diamonds, then surely anybody else who comes into this country must be denied that right; because this is our own country. We are not going to sit down and see all these obnoxious Bills passed over our heads, so that our children will blame us in future. I will suggest that it is a very serious matter that the African in his own country should be denied the right of possession. We are not in South Africa or in those countries where people are maltreated in this manner. We are not here to make it our principle not to protect the interest of the African. I do not actually know how to speak to the Minister because this matter is really very serious. After all the foreigners will laugh at us and say that the Gold Coast Africans in the Legislative Assembly have passed an Ordinance making it impossible for their own people to be in possession of diamond. What is that? I am suggesting to the Minister that although I am in the Opposition and this is a Government motion, if they do not withdraw it, we are all going to vote against it and show them that the whole country has no confidence in the Government.

11.45 a.m.

MR. AWUMA: Mr. Speaker, from all the arguments advanced by previous speakers it becomes obvious that there are too many difficulties placed already in the way of African diamond winners and all the risks including imprisonment and others run in this industry are run only by Africans whether they are winners or just innocent people moving about in the concessions. It will be very bad for the Government to be defeated on this motion, particularly to-day when the Opposition Bench is unoccupied. I do not believe that it will by all means mean that the whole country has no confidence in the Government. Rather it will prove to the world that the Government supporters in the Assembly do not just blindly support the Government on any issue whether that issue is a wrong one or not. However in order that we may be able to prove to the world that the Government are not merely stubborn and unreasonable, I want to suggest humbly to the Government that they put their heads together and take a more honourable way of withdrawing this Bill rather than to take the risk of being defeated on an issue like this.

MR. GBEDEMAH: Mr. Speaker, I rise to wind up this debate which seems to have gone one-sided. But I wish, before I ask that the question be put, to explain very carefully—

MR. SPEAKER: I understand an amendment has been moved.

MR. GBEDEMAH: Yes, an amendment has been moved but I wish to explain very carefully the position as I see it. First of all this is not a very important Government Bill. It is only brought up to try and tidy a very unhealthy position which exists in this country to-day with regard to mining and disposal of diamonds. Everybody knows that there is a large amount of diamonds leaving this country by unauthorised means and Government are losing revenue and all these diamonds which go this way are not those which are won by legitimate and authorised persons but by those who are engaged either as labourers or those who are engaged in illicit diamond traffic.

It is unfortunate that in every case where an expatriate firm or foreign capital is invested in opposition to African enterprise, sentiment is brought to bear unnecessarily when the matter is being discussed—

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: No! No! No!

MR. GBEDEMAH: —because those who have advanced the argument that this Bill is intended to protect the expatriate firms have not proved that this and that are their reasons for saying that this Bill seeks to protect the expatriate firms.

Now, if you read this Bill you will see that persons are authorised to deal with diamonds and they are exempt from the implications of this Bill. It is only those who are engaged in illicit traffic who are trying to get diamonds away from the country without paying duty and through unauthorised channels who will be affected by this Bill. But Honourable Members are saying that an African in his own country is not allowed to hold diamond.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. GBEDEMAH: If you are an African and you want to deal in diamond all you have to do is to go and get a licence, and that gives you an authority to win diamond. But if Honourable Members are saying that everybody should be allowed to deal in diamond indiscriminately—

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: No!

MR. GBEDEMAH: That is what your argument means. If that is what you are meaning then the Government—you are the legislators, you have been given authority, you have been elected by the electorates of this country to seek their interest and if you want the country to believe that you say that everybody should be allowed to deal in diamond indiscriminately, then say so—the Government are prepared to withdraw the Bill. But you must understand that since the law exists, where revenue will be collected, Government will see that all legitimate efforts are made to collect revenue from those who deal in diamond.

[MR. GBEDEMAH]

Now, section 3 of the amendment says that nobody should go and dig or mine diamond from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. If you have a legitimate business on a diamond field and you have worked from 6 o'clock in the morning you are expected after twelve hours work to retire. If you have your diamond with you, if you are an authorised dealer or licensed, when you show your licence to the police they will set you free. If you want us to believe or if you want us to understand that everybody should be allowed to carry diamond about with him and Government should not do anything about it, it is for you to say. I do not wish to press that this Bill should be forced through.

A motion is before this House that this Bill should be read this day six months and I am prepared to ask that the question be put.

MR. DADSON: Before the question is put, I would like Members in the House to disabuse their minds of the impression that by asking the Government to withdraw the Bill they should allow anybody to carry diamond about. That is not the case. We have made a point that by introducing this Bill they do not in any way solve the problem of diamond smuggling and if they want any tangible way by which they can solve the problem they can invite some of us and we can consider the matter at a round table conference.

MR. GBEDEMAH: I told Honourable Members the other day that Government were considering proposals about the difficulties which African diamond dealers go through and I ask the Honourable Member to exercise a little patience and proposals will come before this House after they have been carefully considered. I do not wish to bring measures before this House which have only been partially thought of. That is why it has taken so long. This Bill in the meantime is trying to make it more difficult for people to steal diamonds and sell them. If the Honourable Member wishes that to continue he is at liberty to put it before the House and if the House approves big sums for him.

The question:

"That the motion that the Bill intituled an Ordinance to amend the Diamond Mining Industry Protection Ordinance be now read" be amended by deleting the word "now" and adding the words "this day six months"

was put and agreed to.

It was resolved accordingly.

*The Local Government (Amendment) Ordinance, 1953—
Second Reading*

MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING
(MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Local Government Ordinance, 1951" be read a second time.

[MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE]

In the course of the address which I made to this House a fortnight ago when introducing my draft Estimates for grants-in-aid to local authorities, I mentioned the fact that experience had shown that certain improvements could be made to the Local Government Ordinance.

Generally speaking, therefore, the amendment which are proposed may be regarded as being of a routine nature. The most significant, however, concerns the form of local authority rates. Here I would say that under the law as it stands at present, a local authority in addition to a basic rate, may impose general or special rates based upon anyone of the following systems:—

- (a) a graduated rate *per capita*.
- (b) a rate on the assessed value of immovable property, and
- (c) a rate on possessions.

It is my intention that the basic rate, which is payable by all adult members of the community should be fixed at such a figure as will enable all classes to pay it without hardship. At present, in the absence of other approved rating systems, local authorities have had to rely wholly upon the basic rate. This bears hardship on the poorer members of the community and I intend as soon as possible that local authorities should have the opportunity to obtain additional contributions from wealthier individuals, such contributions being related to the financial standing of the individuals in question. For this reason I have been considering the most satisfactory methods whereby a graduated rate can be introduced and, perhaps, even more important, a rate on property. This latter form of rate, however, is appropriate only for built-up areas, that is to say, for a very limited part of the area of the majority of local authorities. In view of this fact, and in consonance with my intention to spread the burden of Local Government rating equitably among the various classes of the community, I propose that local authorities, in appropriate cases, should be empowered to supplement the basic rate with both a graduated rate and a rate on property. In other words, I intend that the three forms of rating to which I have already referred should no longer be mutually exclusive.

Another amendment, also relating to rates, concerns the payment of the basic rate by women. It was generally accepted by Native Authorities that women should not have to pay the same basic rate as their men folk, and in certain areas the application of the principle of equality of treatment between the sexes has led to hardship. I therefore propose that rating authorities shall have some discretion in this matter, and subject to my approval, that they shall have the power to reduce or remit the amount of basic rate to be payable by the members of the fair sex.

[MR. ASAFU-ADJAYE]

The other proposed modifications are either technical or of a routine nature, or related to particular difficulties and as such they can best be dealt with when the Bill is before the House in committee. Here, however, I would like to say that I shall move one or two additional amendments at that time; of these further modifications, the most important is that the existing provision which is made in the Bill, to the effect that the assets of the former Native Authorities in the Northern Territories, may be transferred to District Councils rather than to local and urban councils, shall at my discretion be applied outside the Protectorate. This modification has been made desirable by one or two recent cases, outside the Northern Territories, in the special circumstances of which this discretion might be of value in finding the most satisfactory solution to the problems which have arisen.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move.

MR. F. Y. ASARE: Mr. Speaker, I beg to second.

Motion made and question proposed that the Bill be read a second time.

MR. J. E. JANTUAH: The Minister's intention to amend this Ordinance has shown that he is indeed very progressive. The amendment has brought the Ordinance nearly up-to-date, and I say nearly advisedly.

There are other points in the principal Ordinance which do not make the Ordinance completely up-to-date. I am particularly happy to hear from the Minister that he is contemplating bringing up the question of graduated levies. In my opinion the whole question of levying in this country is rather backward. In the rural areas especially the incidence of taxation falls more heavily on the poor. The basic rates which are levied however low they may be, definitely will fall more heavily on the poorer classes than on the richer. For if you have a flat-rate no matter what the amount is, it is quite obvious that the man who has £10 and who pays 3d. has more of the burden of taxation than the man who has £20 and pays the same rate of 3d. And therefore I say I am very glad to know that the Minister has in mind this very question and that sooner or later he will be able to bring before us a scheme for the graduation of these levies.

Then another point I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister is that in the principal Ordinance he authorises his Agents to authorise the payment of levies. Now most of these Agents are the Government Agents and these Government Agents have also some sort of judicial power, that is to say, they act very often as Magistrates or District Magistrates. On that score I find that it is very unsatisfactory for a man who is an Administrative Officer to be at the same time in certain cases a District Magistrate. You

[MR. JANTUAH]

can take the very recent case where a Chief was alleged to have incited other people to refuse to pay levy as an example. I am informed it was at Juaben. Now the Government Agent there who had authorised the levying of those rates was at the same time the man before whom this Chief had to appear. How do you in your conscience expect such a man to be fair. After all the substance of justice does not dwell in the sky; it is almost always built upon conditions and associations of those estimating and if apart from the fact that it is not fair on our part to expect this District Magistrate to be able absolutely to desist from the influences of his administrative duties, it is also not fair on the part of those who refuse to pay the levies, and I would implore the Minister to take this matter very seriously. The whole question of the administration of justice in this country is far below what one might expect, and I had thought I was going to have time to speak on this matter yesterday but there we were.

Another point. In section 2, instead of the word "recorded" we are intending to substitute "declared". The principle underlying this I am afraid is one that is backward. In every progressive country the policy is always to codify laws. To codify customary laws in this country, up-to-date, or until this Bill, the Chiefs were required to record their customary laws and I think that that is the proper tendency towards the codification of our customary laws. Now the Minister has taken another step backward. He makes our customary laws only subject to the whims and caprices of Chiefs and linguists and I do not know exactly what he means by "declared", whether the customary practices become customary laws simply because a Chief takes upon himself and he and his Councillors say that they are so. But I will call the attention of the Minister who himself is a legal expert to these things not to allow us to go backwards. He must require all these customary laws to be recorded so that any person who is in doubt may have recourse to the written document as far as our laws are concerned.

Then also it is intended to amend subsection (5) of section 20. There you will find that it requires three-fourths of members present and voting at a meeting. Here the suggested amendment is that there shall be two-thirds and that the words "present and voting at a meeting" shall be omitted. Now, I think this also is not as it ought to be. The principle of a quorum has been established in this Ordinance and I presume that the quorum of a council is either two-thirds or below two-thirds. For this special section, I think—I stand to correct if I am mistaken—I think it is dealing with the removal of the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman. The removal of the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman is not so important a subject as even the levying of rates or the transaction of business relating to appropriation of funds and so on. And these businesses can be transacted by a council when there is a