



WESTERN REGION OF NIGERIA

AS. (66)

Joint Council
of the
Western House of Chiefs
and the
Western House of Assembly
Debates
Official Report

1st March, 1954

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**JOINT COUNCIL OF THE WESTERN HOUSE OF CHIEFS
AND THE WESTERN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**

Monday, 1st March, 1954

The Council met at 8.30 a.m.

PRESENT

The Alake of Abeokuta
The Otota of Abraka
Omoba A. Adedamola
Mr D. S. Adegbenro
Mr I. A. Adejare
Rev. Mr S. A. Adeyefa
Mr J. O. Adigun
The Ewi of Ado
Mr M. F. Agidee
Alhaji A. T. Ahmed
Mr S. Akinola
Chief S. L. Akintola
Mr S. O. Awokoya
Mr O. Awolowo
Mr E. A. Babalola
Chief E. E. Boyo
Rev. Mr S. A. Daramola
The Timi of Ede
The Onotuku of Obiaruku
Mr A. Enahoro
The Onogie of Ewohimi
Alhaji S. O. Gbadamosi
The Balogun of Ibadan
The Oba of Iboro

The Olojudo of Iddo-Faboro
The Agboghidi of Idumuje-Ugboko
The Oni of Ife
The Awujale of Ijebu-Ode
The Orimolusi of Ijebu-Igbo
The Akarigbo of Ijebu-Remo
The Lejoka of Ilesha
The Orangun of Illa
Mr A. A. Ilo
The Osolu of Irewe
The Odemo of Ishara
The Bajulaiye of Lagos
The Oba of Lagos
Mr A. B. P. Martins
Chief J. F. Odunjo
The Oshile of Oke-Ona
Mr S. O. Ola
Mr S. O. Olagbaju
The Oshemawe of Ondo
The Ataoja of Oshogbo
The Olowo of Owo
Mr M. S. Sowole
The Olu of Warri

ABSENT

Mr M. Aboderin
The Obi of Aboh
The Obi of Agbor
Rev. Mr J. Ade. Ajayi
The Bale of Ajilete
Mr O. Akeredolu-Ale
Mr A. Akerele
Chief D. T. Akinbiyi
Mr T. A. Amao
The Otaru of Auch
Rev. Mr S. A. Banjo
Mr S. O. Hassan
The Olubadan of Ibadan
The Abodi of Ikoya
The Alara of Ilara
The Owa of Ilesha

Mr S. O. Lanlehin
Chief T. A. Odutola
Mr A. O. Ogedengbe
Mr J. A. Ogunmuyiwa
Chief S. I. Ogunwale
The Olokpe of Okpe
The Iyase of Benin
The Oba of Benin
Chief S. L. Edu
Chief D. A. Fafunmi
Bishop G. M. Fisher
Mr J. O. Oshuntokun
The Alafin of Oyo
The Ona-Aka of Oyo
Chief Arthur Prest
The Pere of Tarakri

PRAYERS

*(The President in the Chair)***Appointment of Mr F. O. Awosika as a Central Minister**

Question proposed "That the Governor's proposal that Mr F. O. Awosika be appointed a Minister be approved".

The Minister for Education (Mr S. O. Awokoya).—Mr President, I have great pleasure in commending for the approval of this Joint Council, that the Governor's proposal that Mr F. O. Awosika be appointed a Minister be approved. In doing so, I have great confidence in the capacity of the hon. Mr Awosika. What are the grounds for this confidence? First, in my association with him in the Action Group Party he has demonstrated a unique capacity for this post. I should like to elaborate on this later on. Secondly, during the short period of two years while the Macpherson's Constitution has been in operation, he has distinguished himself as a parliamentarian. Later on, I would like also to elaborate on this ground. And thirdly, when I look at the background of the hon. Mr Awosika and the form of political training that he has undergone I cannot but feel that the approval of this proposal is something which everyone should endorse.

What has Mr Awosika done as a member of the Action Group Party—the Party in power in this Region? Almost from the very inception of this Party he has been a member of its executive and in that executive he has always given of his best. His advice has been most valuable and every contribution which he has made at any time when there has been a deliberation on any matter of public importance he has shown a great deal of wisdom. What is more, whenever he feels very strongly on any issue he has always been very earnest in his advocacy. There is no time when his interest in his Party can be doubted or his love of his country questioned. Above all, he has always shown a great deal of goodwill to his colleagues both within the Party and outside the Party. He is a man who can always form a team. He is a man who does a great deal of work both seen and unseen in order to enhance the reputation of any organisation to which he belongs. His parliamentary performance ever since the beginning of this Constitution has been remarkable alike in the Western House of Assembly and in the House of Representatives. Whenever the hon. Mr Awosika stood up in the House everybody expects to hear a sound contribution of commonsense devoid of any form of frivolity. One Member—someone remarked a few weeks ago, that members of the Action Group always do their home work. I think it is remarkably true of the hon. Mr Awosika that he always does his home work. He brings to bear on his contribution on all debates, his unique analytical power. Each time he stands up to debate the Second reading of a Bill you can be sure that he has burnt his mid-night oil and has analysed the Bill in every aspect. That shows what quality of service he is capable of giving to the Council of Ministers which he is now being called to enter.

I have said earlier that his sense of advocacy is strong whenever any point which interests him or on which he feels very strongly is brought into debate. I can well remember two instances which can be mentioned at this stage. Some time in the year 1952, in the House of Representatives, the

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Action Group Party had to oppose every clause, every comma, every phrase almost, in the notorious Aid to Pioneer Industry Bill. The House sat until the very early hours of the morning and on that historic occasion, the hon. Mr Awosika took a significant part in opposing the notorious Aid to Pioneer Industry Bill, which became a dead letter almost as soon as it was passed. Again, last year, when the famous motion on Self-Government was tabled in the House of Representatives, he was one of those who contributed a great deal to that debate and we all know what consequences have followed that motion and what Constitutional advancement this country has witnessed as a result of that motion.

Lastly, one cannot fail to note that this remarkable contribution of the hon. Mr Awosika has been due to his educational and political background. All throughout the years he has been undergoing a course of political education. At the very bottom, at the very foundation of this political education, you find that some years ago, almost forty years ago, he received his earliest education at a missionary school known as St. Stephen's, Ondo. That, I say, is the foundation of his political education. Later on, he came into contact with men of other races at the Warri College and at the Government College, Ibadan, where he was a mathematics master and also a house master. It can be easily imagined what effect this contact with men of other races had on him both at the Warri College and at the Government College, Ibadan; how he learned to handle human material as a house master and how he became keenly interested in the future of youth. The contact which he had at that stage was probably responsible for the growth of independent outlook in the hon. Mr Awosika. No sooner did he leave the Government College, Ibadan, than he became a professional photographer. He wanted to practise on his own and to earn his own livelihood and he wanted to be boss of his own show. Later, he discovered that his job as a schoolmaster always concerned about the development of youth and for the advancement of the race was so strong that he could not continue just as a photographer and as a result he became a school proprietor and principal of a public school in Ondo. There again, his interest in politics began to grow.

He became an active politician from the year 1947 when he was appointed into the Ondo District Council and ever since he has been going from one political council or committee to another. He has been making his own contribution to the political advancement of the country. At the Review of the Constitution in the year 1949, he represented Ondo at the Provincial level, and in the year 1951, he was elected by his own people as a Member of the House of Assembly. In the year 1952, the various Members of this House elected him also into the House of Representatives and towards the end of the same year he represented the Western Region at the Conference on African Education at Cambridge University. Thereafter, he toured Europe to acquaint himself with the political practice, local government practice and various public affairs of that continent as well as the United Kingdom. Hon. Members will see, therefore, that his is a ripe and rich experience and there can be no doubt that he will be a valuable and useful addition to the Council of Ministers. Members of this Joint Council therefore, can vote for him in the full confidence that he will be able to discharge the onerous responsibility which Membership of the Council

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of Ministers implies. And we can also be sure that while we have the hon. Mr Awosika in the Council of Ministers it will be in the forefront of his mind to contribute effectively to the unity of Nigeria.

Mr President, I beg to move.

Question put and a ballot held :

Ayes 44 ; Noes Nil.

Proposal agreed to.

Council adjourned sine die at ten minutes after 9 o'clock a.m.

GPI 340/MS4/600