

In our particular case this house and estate, through decades of sales for taxation, is now reduced to a level at which, even with successful opening to the public, it can only expect to break even. Yet in 1970, the first 15-year anniversary of the original settlement, the trustees will be faced with a considerable tax bill based on the rise in the underlying assets, even though these assets have not been realized. Funds could only then be found from further sales, the result of which would be that this estate would run at a mounting loss.

It might perhaps be possible for exemptions to be made for buildings of outstanding importance with their contents and land. Even tax relief on income and capital might maybe ultimately be given to the extent of all restoration.

But before this how may people, despairing of the future of their inheritances, will have decided to withdraw from the struggle? And if this should happen, what precisely, one wonders, do the Government intend to do with these abandoned national monuments?

Yours faithfully,

D. M. WHEELER.

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Times 3/6/68

NIGERIA'S WAR

From Judith Lady Listowel

Sir,—In his letter (May 31) Mr. Raymond Blackburn says that the British Government must induce the Nigerian Government "to show magnanimity in victory". At the end of March I was in Lagos and asked a number of leading Nigerians what would happen after they had defeated the secessionist Biafrans.

Major-General Gowon, President and Commander-in-Chief, told me: "I will do everything in my power to save a united Nigeria. When the war is over, no action will be taken against ordinary Ibo, unless they have committed criminal offences. The leaders of the rebellion will have to face ordinary or military tribunals for misleading the people."

The Commissioner for External Affairs, Dr. Arikpo, said: "I believe that by the end of the emergency both sides will have learnt that they must live together. Look", he went to a map on the wall of his room, "today Ugep was liberated. That is the place I come from. I am an Ekoi and I lost several of my relatives. Two were buried alive by Ibo. And yet I say I do

not want revenge. It is the policy of our Government to make a generous settlement. We have stated this again and again."

Chief Anthony Enahoro, Commissioner for Information and at this moment leader of the Federal delegation to the Kampala peace talks, told me: "There will be a constitutional conference. I would go as far as saying that until the displaced persons are resettled we must differentiate in the Ibo's favour."

To my question whether the Northerners would accept such a generous policy, he replied: "It is our task to convince them that it is in Nigeria's interest that they should. Since we have divided Nigeria into 12 states, we have a chance."

If the Federal Nigerian leaders live up to their pledged policy, a generous settlement should be possible. The British Government should exert its influence to providing guarantees that this policy will be carried out.

Yours, &c.,

JUDITH LISTOWE

9 Halsey Street, S.W.3.

WHO IS TO BE 'MR

From Mr. John Sparrow

Sir,—I notice a new policy in your columns with regard to the use of the name "Mr." nowadays—or, if you like, "the Mr."—for everyone, for even you (it seems) do not draw the line somewhere. But how do you intend where to draw it? The lower you draw it, the more difficult it is, and the more ridiculous, if I may say so, you make it.

A gang of young thugs were sentenced the other day for a bomb plot against a rival gang; their crime, according to the Judge, was "little less than conspiring to commit murder". According to your report, "Mr." Powell (aged 18, tool maker), "Mr." Morgan (aged 17, porter), "Mr." Gru (aged 19, no occupation given), and "Mr." Palmer (aged 19, porter), were sent to Borstal; "Mr." McCalla (aged 17) was put on probation.

In an adjoining column you report that Ian Brady, the monster convicted of the Moors murders, is being given the services of a university lecturer to help him pass his G.C.E. "O" level examination. "Brady", you say, "is in top security E Wing". If "Mr. McCalla" why not "Mr. Brady"?

Yours faithfully,

JOHN SPARROW.

All Souls College, Oxford, May 29.