

PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

An index to questions appears at the end of this part.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

97 Mr STEELE to Mr EVERINGHAM—

1. Has the Darwin Cyclone Relief Trust Fund received all outstanding money from donors around Australia, and, if not, what are the reasons for the delay?
2. What money has been paid out of the fund and to whom?
3. Who may apply for relief from the fund and what is the official method of making applications?

ANSWER

1. It is not known how much money was contributed from all sources to the relief of the victims of Cyclone Tracy so it is not possible to answer this portion of the question.
2. As at 23 July 1975 the following amounts have been paid from the Fund:

	\$
Financial Assistance paid to applicants outside Darwin	1,582,133
Financial Assistance paid to applicants in Darwin	3,110,283
Bereavement Grants	288,500
Disbursement as requested by the donors	192,642
Medical and Funeral Expenses	1,404
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	5,174,962

3. Any person resident in Darwin immediately prior to the cyclone may apply for relief from the Fund by completing an application form available from the Trust.

99 Mr STEELE to Mr EVERINGHAM—

Is it the intention of the Australian Government to provide individual Darwin residents with long term home finance and, if so, will the loan be an extension of the Home Finance Trustee or will another fund be set up?

ANSWER

The Australian Government has approved a scheme for concessional low interest long term housing loans to pre-cyclone owner-occupiers and those intending to be. The loan is being administered by the Home Finance Trustee concurrently with the existing scheme.

124 Mr MacFARLANE to Mr TAMBLING—

1. How many RAAF houses at Tindal will be occupied by people relocated in Katherine?
2. Will a regular bus service be provided between Katherine and Tindal?

ANSWER

1. Thirty-six houses at Tindal are occupied by these people.
2. A regular school bus calls at Tindal each school day to transport children to and from school. A licensed bus operator in Katherine has studied the probable level of patronage available for a regular public service between Katherine and Tindal. He has decided that there is no feasible demand for such a service under existing circumstances.

126 Mr MacFARLANE to Mr EVERINGHAM—

What progress has been made on the installation of the sewerage system at Katherine and when will it be completed?

ANSWER

At present connections have been or are being made to lines 1, 8, 9, 13, 17A, 17D and 19. A total of 29 properties has been connected up to 29 May 1975.

It is expected that, by the first week in June, the area between the Railway Line and Dowling Street will be able to be connected. The Connection of Stage 1 of the airport subdivision has been held up due to blockage in line 17. The only mains not yet laid are line 3 and 150 feet of line 2 which should be completed by the end of July. There are 58 gravity mains and 5 rising mains in the system.

Allowing for a period of cleaning up the contractor should have all the work completed by September.

148 Mr MacFARLANE to Mr TAMBLING—

What urgent action is proposed to alleviate the housing shortage in Katherine?

ANSWER

It is proposed to build 40 houses in Katherine during 1975-1976. A contract for 20 of these is about to be let.

170 Mr MacFARLANE to Mr TAMBLING—

Who owns the houses formerly used by the ACS at Tindal and what are the intentions for their future use?

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

ANSWER

The ACS houses at Tindel are owned by the Australian Government.

ACS houses at Tindel were scheduled to be demolished in the December/January 1975 period. The Department of Services and Property was to arrange for their sale and removal, but after the cyclone they were used by the Department to house evacuees and officers relocated in Katherine.

All of the habitable homes are occupied, and some more are being restored to alleviate the housing situation in Katherine.

176 Mr MacFARLANE to Mr TAMBLING—

When will the flats for single professional people at Katherine be opened?

ANSWER

Tenders for the erection of 48 bed sitters in Katherine are now being considered and the completion date will be 58 weeks from the placing of the contract.

The 38 single units being constructed for Commonwealth Hostels are expected to be completed in September 1975.

180 Mr MacFARLANE to Mr TUXWORTH—

Will a faithful reproduction of the Elsey Homestead be made by tourist authorities as an historically important feature with great potential as a tourist attraction?

ANSWER

The Department of Northern Australia is unaware of any plans for Elsey Homestead to be reconstructed as a tourist attraction. It is possible that the Interim Committee on the National Estate may be prepared to consider the proposal based on the historical value of the site and if there is a group, such as, say, the Katherine Historical Society, interested in its preservation, then an approach may be made to the Interim Committee with a view of preservation of the site and nearby graves, as part of the National Estate.

191 Mr MacFARLANE to Mr TAMBLING—

For housing purposes, are school teachers, doctors and veterinarians regarded as "key" personnel and when such people vacate houses are the houses retained for occupancy by their successors?

ANSWER

1. School teachers, doctors, veterinary officers and in fact any positional category are not automatically regarded as "key" positions for housing purposes. Any case for "key status" is considered individually and on its merits.

2. In some cases particularly in respect of officers on set term transfers between Territory centres i.e. Meteorological staff, Air Traffic Controllers, certain Postal and Telecommunications personnel etc. houses are reserved for the use of the replacement officer provided he or she is available to take up occupancy of the vacated premises within 30 days. A similar concession is allowed to members of the Police, Fire and Prisons services. This replacement officer housing system operates in all Territory centres except Darwin at the present moment.

200 Mr WITHNALL to Miss ANDREW—

1. Is it a fact that at this late stage of any emergency that may have existed a decision has been made to transfer to Brisbane the accounting and salaries staff of the Department of Education now based in Darwin?

2. How many, if any, of the staff are prepared to go to Brisbane?

3. How many of the staff to be transferred are satisfactorily accommodated in Darwin?

4. If the transfer to Brisbane is or was necessary, why was it left for nearly three months to propose it?

5. What additional costs will be incurred by the transfer?

6. What benefit will be obtained by the transfer?

ANSWER

Part 1—Following discussions with staff, three Adult Education Programmers and three members of the Curriculum and Research Branch of the NT Division of the Department of Education moved from Darwin to Brisbane in early May 1975.

Part 2—All six officers were prepared to move to Brisbane.

Parts 3, 4, 5, 6—None of the officers transferred were satisfactorily accommodated in Darwin. However, the transfer was arranged not primarily because of family accommodation problems. For some time the Curriculum and Research Branch, which provides an advisory service to teachers, has been trying to gain a viable staff establishment in order to continue the development of meaningful curricula for use in schools in the Northern Territory.

Following an assessment of the Darwin situation in March and April 1975, it became apparent that it was not possible to fill vacant curriculum positions from the already depleted Darwin teacher population nor to

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

recruit to new positions which were being created, because of the unavailability of accommodation in Darwin. Accordingly, the plan is to build up an advisory service in Brisbane with a view to moving back to Darwin as soon as adequate staff accommodation is available.

250 Mr MacFARLANE to Mr EVERINGHAM—

Does the Department of Housing and Construction provide a demolition squad for Government employees' cyclone damaged homes and, if so, is this a free service and is it available to private citizens?

ANSWER

The Department of Housing and Construction does not provide a squad to demolish cyclone damaged homes but will remove cyclone debris from a person's property if notified. This service applies to all residents.

260 Mr DONDAS to Mr EVERINGHAM—

Will former Darwin homeowners not returning to Darwin receive any assistance in buying homes in other cities?

ANSWER

The concessional low interest long term loan scheme being administered by the Department of Northern Australia does not have application outside the Darwin area. At this stage, there is no known special assistance for persons from Darwin other than that provided through normal grants/loans schemes as applying in the States and the ACT.

263 Mr DONDAS to Mr EVERINGHAM—

1. What department will administer the new home loan of \$33,000 at 6% interest offered by the Australian Government?
2. When will application forms be available to Darwin residents?

ANSWER

1. The loan scheme is being administered by the Public Utilities and Housing Branch of the Department of Northern Australia. The scheme has a maximum loan amount of \$42,000 at a 6% interest rate repayable over a period of up to 45 years.
2. Applications forms have been available from the Home Finance Section, Department of Northern Australia, Mitchell Chambers, Mitchell Street, Darwin, from 19 May 1975.

264 Mr DONDAS to Miss ANDREW—

1. When will charges for the supply of electricity be imposed?
2. How is it proposed to calculate charges for electricity supplied to unmetered premises?

ANSWER

1. The Administrator in Council has approved the introduction of electricity charges in Darwin for commercial consumers from 1 May 1975 and for domestic consumers from 22 May 1975.
2. Almost all supply to consumers in the Darwin area is now metered. Regulation 19(3) of the Electricity Supply Regulations provides that where the number of units supplied is not registered by a meter then the number of units supplied during that period may be assessed.

266 Mr DONDAS to Mr RYAN—

What steps have been taken to ensure that there will be adequate materials available for the Darwin reconstruction program?

ANSWER

The contracts awarded for the construction of the first 1,300 new homes were distributed to companies in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide.

The material requirements for these contracts are supplied from varying sources, the majority originating in their respective capital cities. Common suppliers to each contractor are in the timber, roof sheeting, concrete and steel items.

The Commission is evaluating the requirements of placing bulk orders for the materials listed above and P.C. items for direct supply to future contractors. This pre-ordering will give suppliers additional time to cope with the supply and reduce high demands on manufacturers.

The majority of the material supply will be transported to Darwin by road for the above contracts. This will reduce the demand for shipping capacity in the Darwin port.

The majority of the labour force for the construction of these houses will be imported from various areas throughout Australia and housed in contractors' camps. This action will minimise the demand on local resources.

The Government commercial building and the Housing Commission Construction Programme constitutes the major building industry work outside the new homes projects. These projects produce less demand on the Darwin material and labour resources than the 1973-1974 works program.

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The Commission is currently conducting a survey of the private homeowners in Darwin and the capital cities to determine their proposed rebuilding program. This program will be evaluated and approvals to build issued in line with overall labour and materials availability.

The material and labour requirements for these contracts will be supplied ex Darwin. The Commission is extremely conscious of the necessity to work in close co-operation with the Darwin suppliers and contractors and not to award contracts which will place excessive demands on their resources. The Commission will monitor the Darwin resources situation continuously and give as much advanced information to these organisations to allow them to plan their activities.

In Summary

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Material | <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Materials supplies for the first major contracts will come from varying sources mainly outside Darwin.(b) Bulk orders are currently being prepared to give suppliers extra lead time to meet construction deadlines.(c) Bulk store facilities in Darwin are being prepared to house suppliers.(d) Evaluation of the supply potential of Darwin based firms is in hand. |
| Transport | <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Major contractors are tendering to use road rather than marine transport.(b) The marine transport capacity is handling current requirements.(c) Engagement of additional shipping capacity for future requirements will be investigated shortly. |
| Labour | <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) The major contractors will import the majority of their labour for their work.(b) The work load in the local building and civil construction companies is light and will cater for the work of restoration and Government commercial construction.(c) Evaluation of future labour requirements is currently proceeding. |

267 Mr DONDAS to Mr RYAN—

Does the Minister for Transport intend providing more ships in the immediate future for transporting freight from southern ports to Darwin?

ANSWER

The Government is most concerned to ensure that an economic, reliable and adequate coastal shipping service is maintained for Darwin at all times. Although industrial disputes have disrupted the service provided by the ANL vessel "Darwin Trader", it appears from previous months' loadings that the existing ANL service is at present adequate to cater for demand. For example, in January and February of this year the "Darwin Trader" was only half loaded although a full load was carried in March and May. The vessel is, at this stage, fully booked for the June voyage. I am also advised by the Line that they have no serious backlog of cargo which could not be accommodated by the existing cargo carrying capacity available. The Line is however exploring all avenues to ensure that sufficient capacity exists in the future to cover demand for cargo space.

For nearly 60 years it has been Government policy to reserve the coastal trade for Australian licensed vessels. This policy is embodied in the Coasting Trade provisions of the Navigation Act. Provisions exist, however, to meet the situation where the existing licensed coastal fleet is unable to cater for the requirements of shippers, and consideration is then given for the granting of a single voyage permit. Before approving the use of unlicensed tonnage I am required under the Act to ensure that there is an immediate need for the shipment concerned and that no suitable licensed tonnage could be arranged within a reasonable time. You can be assured that should such a situation develop the provisions of the Act will be availed of.

269 Mr DONDAS to Mr TAMBLING—

1. When will the first of the proposed demountable housing units be placed on site in Darwin?
2. What kind of rents are envisaged for these demountable units and how will tenants be chosen?

ANSWER

1. The first demountable units were sited on 30.5.75, 76 units have been allocated to 8.8.75 and a total of 169 have been sited.
2. Rentals will be approximately \$20 per week. Once handed over by the Darwin Reconstruction Commission, the units are divided equally between the NT Housing Commission and the Department of Northern Australia. Tenants are selected from the housing lists held by the Department and the Commission in order of priority and with regard to family content.

272 Mr DONDAS to Mr TAMBLING—

When will the M S "Patris" leave Darwin and what arrangements will be made to re-accommodate those persons on board?

ANSWER

The charter of the "Patris" is due to expire in mid November 1975 and the Darwin Reconstruction Commission has announced it is to build hostel type accommodation and purchase additional relocatable units to accommodate those left on the ship at that stage.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

279 Mr STEELE to Mr POLLOCK—

1. What is the average annual cost of operation of the whole of the Northern Territory Medical Service?
2. What is the estimated cost of operation in the Territory for the first year of Medibank and how much of the cost will be represented by wages and salaries?
3. What staff increases over current levels will be necessary to service the scheme?

ANSWER

The cost of operating medical services in the Northern Territory during 1973-74 was \$21,325,814. The cost was divided between Hospitals and other services as follows—

NT Hospitals	\$14,629,029
Other medical services	\$6,696,785
Total Cost	\$21,325,814

This figure includes the cost of repairs and maintenance to hospitals only.

The estimated cost of operation for the Northern Territory Medical Service in 1975-76 is \$34,271,000. This includes a component of \$23,700,000 for wages and salaries. Capital costs are not included in the above total.

The introduction of Medibank has not necessitated any increase in staff within the Northern Territory Medical Service.

Note: Costs incurred in the administrative operation of the medical benefits element will be met directly by the Health Insurance Commission. These costs will include salaries for two persons and payments to agencies only. These payments for 1975-76 are estimated to be \$20,000.

280 Mr STEELE to Mr EVERINGHAM—

What proportion of the Northern Territory's income will be needed for the operation of Medibank and how much financial assistance will be provided by the Government?

ANSWER

Both the medical benefits and hospital payments under MEDIBANK will be met from general revenue. Medical benefits will be paid to the patient or private medical practitioner and the Northern Territory's income is not affected.

In accordance with Section 32 of the Health Insurance Commission Act 1973-75, daily bed payments of \$16 plus an additional amount to bring the total payments to 50% of the net operating costs of recognised hospital will be payable. Estimates of the amounts involved might be made by the hospital authorities in the Northern Territory.

292 Mr MacFARLANE to Mr TAMBLING—

1. Is electricity and water available for connection to all housing blocks sold at the last auction in Katherine?
2. Can the blocks be connected to the sewerage system?

ANSWER

1. and 2.—Yes.

371 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr EVERINGHAM—

Has the incidence of drug charges before Territory Courts increased over the past six months?

ANSWER

No—For the period 1.5.1974 to 31.10.1974, 131 charges were laid by Police and Customs authorities in the Courts of the Northern Territory, whereas only 54 charges were laid in the period 1.11.1974 to 30.5.1975.

377 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TAMBLING—

The staff accommodation office has issued a document entitled "BALLOT LIST AS AMENDED 27.5.75" and sub-titled "Ballot 21.3.75 CARAVANS ONLY"—

1. Are the names on that list in the order in which caravans are to be issued?
2. Are the names in the order in which they were drawn in the ballot?
3. Are all the names on the list the names of persons in the ballot of 21.3.75 or are there other names?
4. How many persons are on the "Accelerated Priority List"?
5. When is it estimated that the issue of vans to persons on the accelerated priority list be completed?

ANSWER

1. Yes. Where caravans are suitable in relation to family content and applicants specific requirements. If other accommodation becomes available this will be allocated, if desired.
2. Yes.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

3. A second ballot was held on 27 May for staff whose names were not included in the first ballot but who were eligible. These names were inserted into the list in vacancies left where persons had been removed because they already had suitable accommodation or were not eligible to be in the ballot in the first instance.

There are 15 persons on the accelerated list at present, but key personnel are added to the list as they are approved by the Interdepartmental Committee on Housing Allocation, at its regular meetings.

5. Accommodation will continue to be allocated to persons on the accelerated priority list as they are nominated.

378 Mr LAWRIE to Dr LETTS—

1. In the reconstruction of residences for senior public servants in Darwin have any plans been made for the provision of swimming pools?

2. If so, how many pools are to be provided and what are the designations of the officers who are to occupy the residences?

3. What is the estimated cost of the pools, installation, and ancillary equipment?

4. What are the criteria for determining whether or not a public servant shall have a pool installed?

5. What rent on the pool is proposed to be charged?

6. Who is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of any pool so provided?

7. Has Treasury approval been obtained for the purchase of the pools and ancillary equipment?

8. If so, in which financial year are funds to be provided?

ANSWER

1. No.

2. to 8. Not applicable.

379 Mr WITHNALL to Dr LETTS

Some home owners in the Darwin area are receiving by registered post a threatening letter purporting to come from L. A. Robinson, Architect of the Urban and Town Planning Building Section of the Department of the Northern Territory.

1. From where does Mr Robinson derive his authority to send these letters?

2. Who is the person who actually signs these letters and what is his designation?

3. How are the home owners to whom these letters are sent selected?

4. From where is the information leading to the sending of these letters obtained?

5. Why does the letter refer to the "1975 edition of the Building Manual" when no such document exists?

6. How many of these letters have been sent?

ANSWER

1. The letters are issued under the authority of section (61) of the Darwin Reconstruction Act 1975. The Commission has delegated authority to Mr Robinson to exercise these powers on its behalf.

2. The letters are signed by the Area Building Inspector responsible for the area in which the building is located.

3. Such letters are not sent in respect of normal dwelling houses. It is acknowledged that two of these forms were sent in error.

4. The letters are sent to the owners of buildings identified by the Area Building Inspectors in the course of their duties as being in a dangerous condition and open to public access.

5. A draft 1975 edition of the Building Manual was produced in February this year and circulated for public comment. Copies have been available for public inspection at the office of the Northern Territory Building Section since February 20. The Darwin Reconstruction Commission adopted amendments to the Manual at its meeting on May 22, and these were widely publicised in the press. A revised edition of the Manual, incorporating these amendments, is now being printed. Meanwhile a revised copy of the Manual is available for inspection at the office of the Building Section.

6. Twenty-two (22) of these letters have been sent.

381 Mr WITHNALL to Dr LETTS—

With reference to the answers supplied to my question No. 376 regarding the photographic dossiers being prepared by the Darwin Reconstruction Commission.

1. Was this action authorized by the Commission itself?

2. Who were the contractors taking the photographs and where are they accommodated while in Darwin?

3. What was the cost of the contract for the photography?

4. Was any consideration given to the possibility that private citizens might regard the photographs as an invasion of their privacy?

5. Are the photographs in fact being used to identify home owners making repairs to their houses?

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

6. Can he give the Assembly an assurance that the photographs are not intended to be used as evidence for the prosecution of home owners?
7. Will he, as a member of the Commission, take whatever steps are possible to stop the use of these photographs without permission of the owners of the properties?

ANSWER

1. The Acting General Manager authorized the programme.
2. Filmwest Pty Ltd, accommodated at Esplanade Hostel.
3. \$27,580 for 31,000 photographic prints.
4. No. The photography was required as part of the technical process of reconstruction.
5. No.
6. Yes. The photography was required for the sole purpose of recording the status of all land within Darwin. The photographs are to be used in a card referral system linked to a computer output recording complex data. This system is to be used for the establishment of programmes and priorities and will become a permanent record of the reconstruction programme.
7. Removal of data regarding individual properties from the system would result in the property being excluded from priority schedules. The Commission's responsibilities include the proper conduct of the reconstruction programme and assistance to the community as a whole. Should owners of properties which are included in the survey wish to relieve the Commission of responsibilities in any of the complex programmes in hand or planned for the future this can be arranged.

382 Mr TUNGUTALUM to Mr POLLOCK—

I refer to the recommendation by Mr Justice Woodward that January 1976 be set as the date by which Aboriginal land claims in the Northern Territory be lodged. Could he provide details of claims to the present including names of claimants and areas claimed?

ANSWER

No. I am advised that the Northern Land Council is currently carrying out a survey with a view to identifying all unalienated Crown Land on which there might be an Aboriginal interest and that full details of claims will be furnished as soon as is possible.

384 Mr MacFARLANE to Mr RYAN—

When will the Burketown Crossing at Borroloola be upgraded?

ANSWER

In reply to Question on Notice No. 4458 of September 1974, it was advised that it was proposed to undertake work on the crossing to Bessie Springs abattoir in conjunction with the construction of a causeway over the McArthur River Crossing at Borroloola in May/June 1975.

Work has already commenced on the McArthur River crossing and it is expected that this work will be completed within the next two months. It is proposed that this crossing of the McArthur River serving the Bessie Springs abattoir will be upgraded on completion of the McArthur River crossing.

NOTE: It is assumed that the Burketown Crossing referred to in the question is the McArthur River Crossing.

385 Mr MacFARLANE to Mr RYAN—

When will the crossing over the McArthur River between the highway and Bessie Spring serving the Bessie Spring abattoir be completed?

ANSWER

Please see answer to Question on Notice No. 384.

386 Mr MacFARLANE to Mr TAMBLING—

Does he check the accuracy of information supplied to him to answer questions on notice and, if so, how accurate was the answer to question 165 which stated that the diesel generating sets at the Mataranka power station are expected to be commissioned in early June 1975?

ANSWER

Where questions are of a technical or administrative nature the information is sought from the appropriate Government department and the information supplied is therefore relied upon as the basis of answer.

I am now further informed that earlier information available concerning the installation of diesel generators at Mataranka Power Station indicated that they would be commissioned early in June.

There has been a slight delay, but the sets were tested over the weekend of 14-15 June and are expected to be on line by 19 June.

388 Mr MacFARLANE to Mr POLLOCK—

Is the Mataranka Health Centre for general out-patient use, or for Aboriginal out-patient use?

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

ANSWER

The Health Centre being constructed at Mataranka is for general out-patient use. The Department's Health Centres are established throughout the Territory to serve the communities in the areas in which they are built.

390 Mr MacFARLANE to Mr EVERINGHAM—

1. Has the police stock squad ever ventured out of the Darwin area?
2. Is the squad equipped for deterrent patrols or merely to investigate complaints?

ANSWER

1. Yes.
2. The equipment and resources of the Police Force are available for the use of the Stock Squad, should it be for deterrent patrols or to investigate complaints.

391 Mr MacFARLANE to Mr TAMBLING—

Has the block sold at Borroloola for a Service Station site in 1973 been developed in the manner required by the covenants?

ANSWER

No. The covenant of the lease over Lot 409 (Service Station site) Borroloola, requires the commencement of building by 1 September 1974 and completion of building by 1 September 1976.

The preparation of the lease was delayed awaiting the incorporation of the Borroloola Social Club. Incorporation was finally effected on 5 February 1975 and lease instruments were sent to the lessee for signature on 30 April 1975.

An extension of time of 18 months to commence building has been rejected but an extension to commence by September 1, 1975 is being considered. An extension of time was considered necessary due to flooding in 1974 in the Borroloola area and the subsequent interdepartmental study of various factors important to town development.

392 Mr MacFARLANE to Mr TAMBLING—

What steps have been taken to provide reticulated electricity and water for the township of Borroloola?

ANSWER

The provision of town electricity and water to Borroloola will be further considered when a town plan is finalised following completion of the South West Gulf Study now in progress.

393 Mr WITHNALL to Dr LETTS—

1. What land has been vested in the Darwin Reconstruction Commission for its control and administration pursuant to section 12(a) of the Act?
2. How many buildings has the Commission—
 - (a) erected,
 - (b) repaired, or
 - (c) demolished?

ANSWER—

The Section of the Act concerning land is presumably a reference to Section 14(2)(a)—not Section 12A. On the assumption that this is correct the answer is none at this stage although we have made requests to the Department of Northern Australia.

The Darwin Reconstruction Commission through its agents is in the process of:

- (a) constructing 1,300 new houses;
- (b) repairing 20 houses for evaluation of economics and building technique; and
- (c) restoration of 70 houses.

To date, no houses have been completed in either new, repair or restoration category and no houses have been totally demolished under Commission direction.

394 Mr WITHNALL to Dr LETTS—

How many and what directions has the Minister given to the Darwin Reconstruction Commission pursuant to section 10 of the Act.

ANSWER

None. However the Minister has asked the Chairman of the Commission to convene meetings of the Commission in Darwin wherever possible.

395 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr POLLOCK—

1. How many staff members have been appointed to the Yirrkala Medical Centre and for what period?

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

2. When will the official opening date of the centre be announced publicly?

ANSWER

1. It is intended to transfer existing staff at Yirrkala to the new Medical Centre.

The present staff consists of—

1 Resident Clinic Sister

1 Rural Health Sister based at the Centre

5 Aborigines, 4 of whom are hospital assistants and 1 a Health Worker.

There is no intention at this stage to increase the staff.

2. Present indications are that it will be possible to commence work from the Centre on Monday, 14 July 1975.

395A Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr POLLOCK—

Has the Department of Health considered appointing a permanent specialist in gynaecology and obstetrics to Gove Hospital?

ANSWER

The appointment of a permanent specialist as suggested is not considered warranted at this stage. The Department has under consideration alternative means of improving the service in Obstetrics and Gynaecology to the Gove Hospital.

399A Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTS—

1. Following the expiry of the Emergency Services Legislation, what is to be done with the large amount of information held on file by the Permit Section?

2. Is it to be destroyed and if so, how?

3. If not to be destroyed where is the information to be held and who will have access to the information and in what circumstances?

ANSWER

1. Records previously held by the Permits Section have been placed in safe custody with the Department of Northern Australia Central Registry.

2. Working papers only have been destroyed by shredding.

3. The records will continue to be held by the Department of Northern Australia. Access to these records will be available only to authorised persons.

401A Mr TUNGUTALUM to Mr RYAN—

Are street and road signs to be erected in the Shoal Bay area and, if so, by whom and when?

ANSWER

There is no current program provision for street and road signs in the Shoal Bay area. Should the Honourable Member have any particular road or roads in mind the matter will be taken up with the appropriate authority at his request.

402A Mr TUNGUTALUM to Mr RYAN—

What stage has been reached in the provision of a new loading ramp for supply barges at Mission or Linyalung Bay, Croker Island?

ANSWER

In 1973 arrangements were made by the Department of Housing and Construction to carry out a survey into the needs for the upgrading of barge landing facilities to coastal Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory. In the report released in 1974, the Department of Housing and Construction estimated that the cost of upgrading the barge landing facilities at the 13 communities involved would be in the vicinity of \$1.7m including \$160,000 for Croker Island. It will be appreciated that since the issue of the report present day costs would be considerably in excess of these figures.

Because of the size of the commitment it was necessary to allocate priorities with Stage 1 of the project being included in our Works Proposals Program for 1975-76. Unfortunately Croker Island was not included.

Following recent discussions with the General Manager of Perkins Shipping Corporation Pty Ltd in which the Government has a controlling interest, it was accepted that there was a need to revise the initial priorities and this action is currently in hand. If it is possible to vary the program to bring Croker Island forward to 1975-76 then this will be done. It is important to mention however, that at this stage the Department of Aboriginal Affairs is not aware of those projects which will finally gain the approved Civil Works Program for the current year, and this of course will not be formally established until the Budget is brought down by Parliament.

403A Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr RYAN—

When will a public telephone be provided at Gove Airport?

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

ANSWER

The matter has received consideration in the past but there are no immediate plans in hand to install a public telephone at the Gove Airport as it is considered the revenue potential would be very limited and would not provide a reasonable return on the expenditure incurred in setting up and maintaining the facility.

An assurance is given that the matter will be watched closely however and a review will be made in the light of any change in local circumstances.

If the enquiry has been prompted by the lack of facilities for booking taxis, this problem will be overcome in the near future as arrangements are well advanced for the provision of an extension off a taxi proprietor's telephone service which will permit free taxi booking calls to be made at all hours from the airport.

470 Mr WITHNALL to Mr TAMBLING—

1. How many residential blocks in the Darwin area have been offered back to the Government?
2. How many offers of blocks have been accepted by the Government?
3. How many of the blocks have been paid for?

ANSWER

1. 172
2. 172.
3. 42 in 1974-1975, 23 so far in 1975-1976. This is continuing while funds continue to be available.

472 Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTS—

Are consultants employed by the Darwin Reconstruction Commission paid at the rate of \$25 per hour and are their consultancies subject to audit by the Auditor-General's Department?

ANSWER

A number or consultants have been engaged by the Commission with varying hourly rates, depending on their qualifications and expertise.

Commission consultants are engaged in accordance with the relevant professional organisation's formulae and, on several engagements, time spent by a Principal of the consultant organisation is at an hourly rate of \$25. This level of payment is made to the organisation, not the individual.

Audit of the Commission's accounts is carried out by the Auditor-General's Department.

473 Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTS—

1. Is the large amount of information concerning individuals in Darwin which was collected while the entry permit system was in force still in existence?
2. If the records containing this information have not been destroyed, where are they stored and who has access to them?

ANSWER

Please see answer to Question on Notice No. 399.

474 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TAMBLING—

1. Has the Australian Government purchased Lot 622, corner of Esplanade and McLachlan Street, Darwin for \$116,000 and, if so, was Ministerial approval obtained prior to the purchase of this block?
2. If approval was not obtained, who authorized the purchase of the block and for what purpose has it been acquired?

ANSWER

1. Yes, but the Lot is in Mitchell Street, not the Esplanade. Approval was obtained from a Delegate of the Minister as it was within his financial delegation. The Lot was one of a number offered back to the Government and was purchased as one of the blocks required for reconstruction purposes by the Darwin Reconstruction Commission.

2. See above.

475 Mr STEELE to Dr LETTS—

1. I refer to the 32 square mile acquisition area and ask:
 - (a) how much compensation has been paid to former landholders in the area to date;
 - (b) how many cases still await settlements; and
 - (c) what is the estimate of the further compensation to be paid to achieve full settlement?
2. In the Darwin area—
 - (a) what is the current number of blocks offered back to the Government;
 - (b) how many of the blocks have been paid for;

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

- (c) what is the estimated cost of settling the remaining proposed acquisitions and when is it expected that they will be finalised; and
- (d) what money is available for this purpose?

ANSWER

- 1. (a) \$12,474,831.
- (b) 38 on which part payment has been made. 25 on which compensation has not yet been paid.
- (c) \$3.0m
- 2. (a) 1,600 enquiries have been received.
- (b) (c) (d) with the intention of obtaining a valuation only. Eighty properties have been settled to date. It is not possible at this stage to even estimate the cost or date of settling any outstanding offers as there are several valuations not yet received and until a firm figure has been arrived at it will not be possible to say what funds will be required.

476 Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTS—

- 1. Does the Darwin Reconstruction Commission as a whole consider all tenders received or does it delegate this responsibility to a tender committee?
- 2. If the responsibility is delegated, who comprises the tender committee and who is the Chairman?
- 3. Are members of the tender committee able to nominate deputies to sit on the committee in their absence and, if so—
 - (a) on how many occasions have deputies sat on the committee;
 - (b) who were the deputies, for whom did they deputize and what position was occupied by each deputy in or in relation to the Darwin Reconstruction Commission?

ANSWER

The Darwin Reconstruction Commission, as a whole, considers and approves all tenders and commitments in excess of \$1m.

For projects below \$1m, certain officers within the Commission are granted delegation to commit works following detailed reports on tenders received from Commission Agents. The Agency for over 90% of such recommendations is the Department of Housing and Construction.

479 Mr STEELE to Mr POLLOCK—

Has the Department of Aboriginal Affairs made an offer to purchase the Finiss River Cattle Company and, if so, what price has been offered and on what basis has a valuation been made to support the offer?

ANSWER

No.

480 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr TAMBLING—

Is there a boxing control body in the Northern Territory and, if not, will steps be taken to form a boxing control body to assist trainers, referees, youth and sporting bodies?

ANSWER

No. Until about one year ago there was a Northern Territory Amateur Boxing Association, and the Police and Citizens Youth Club was attached to the Association. The Association was affiliated to the South Australian Amateur Boxing Association. There is no current boxing activity in the Police and Citizens Youth Club and the Association is now defunct. The Police and Citizens Youth Club conducted its boxing activities under the rules of the Australian National Boxing Code, with a strong emphasis on medical oversight.

Because of the limited amount of boxing in the Territory, it is suggested that at this time any interested body would be better advised to form an association and seek affiliation with a large State organisation, from which advice and assistance may more readily be available.

491 Mr STEELE to Mr KILGARIFF—

Has he asked the Minister for Northern Australia to clearly state if the Home Finance Trustee will or will not finance homes in the surge areas?

ANSWER

The honourable member for Community Development discussed the matter with the Minister last week. The Minister has advised that he has the matter under consideration but has not yet reached a decision, due to the complication of long term compensation policies of the Australian Government?

492 Mr DONDAS to Mr KILGARIFF—

Is it true that the staff of the Compensation and Repatriation Department have been instructed not to issue any more compensation cheques to the business sector?

ANSWER

I have received a report today in which there is an instance. At the moment, I have no further information, I will obtain it during the day and give the honourable member a fuller answer later.

493 Mr KENTISH to Mr RYAN—

Can he advise me when the section of the Stuart Highway between the airport entrance and Bombing Road will be completed? This has been in a state of disrepair for nearly a year.

ANSWER

I think this is the third consecutive meeting that I have been asked this question and each time I have given an answer that has been supplied. I did take steps last week to obtain some more information in anticipation of a possible question once again and I have been assured that the negotiations between the contractor involved and the Department of Housing and Construction have been completed and the price agreed upon. The papers have been sent to the head office of the Department of Housing and Construction for final ratification, after which the road will be under way once again.

Unfortunately, in answering this question, I have had to rely upon the advice tendered to me by various departments over which I have no control. I am disappointed that the road has not been started as I feel we have lost valuable time. I intend to follow it up and take whatever stronger measures I possibly can to ensure that action is taken on starting the construction of the highway as soon as possible.

494 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr TAMBLING—

Have all blocks sold to the public in the surge area been in subdivisions originally approved by the Commonwealth Government or the Northern Territory Administration?

ANSWER

Yes.

495 Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTS—

Is the person in the Darwin Reconstruction Commission presently occupying the position of Acting Deputy General Manager a member of a firm of consultants known as Crooks Mitchell Peacock and Stewart? If so, did the Commission as a whole appoint this person to the acting job; if not, which member or members of the commission appointed him and on what authority?

ANSWER

I can only provide with absolute certainty an answer to part of the honourable member's question. The person to whom I believe she is referring was not appointed by the commissioners sitting as a board but was appointed under other delegations of the Chairman or the Acting General Manager. I will check out the details of the question and provide her with precise information later in the day.

496 Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTS—

Is the person presently occupying the position of Acting Chief Planner also a member of the consultancy firm Crooks Mitchell Peacock and Stewart? If so, was that person appointed by the board as a whole or, if not, by which members and on what authority?

ANSWER

I will obtain further information. The appointment was not made by the commission as a whole sitting as a board but under delegations given to the Chairman or Acting General Manager.

497 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr KILGARIFF—

Can owners of blocks in the surge area obtain insurance against tidal waves or flood risk?

ANSWER

I will look at the matter and advise the member later in the day.

498 Mr WITHNALL to Dr LETTS—

What assistance does the Darwin Reconstruction Commission provide to assist private persons in the rebuilding of their houses? Will the Darwin Reconstruction Commission undertake the rebuilding of a house to a home owner's plan and does the Commission have a list of approved contractors to whom a private person can turn with confidence for building?

ANSWER

The policy of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission as formed by the Commission sitting as a board is that it would provide assistance to the private home builder both in the helping with provision of design facilities and to enable private builders to use the services of contractors to whom contracts may be let by the Commission. That is the policy which the Commission as a whole determined some time ago. I am unable to give any precise information as to what extent this policy has been implemented, how many people have taken advantage of the situation or have been given help, but I do know that the Commission also conducted a survey to see how many private home owners would be interested in using the services of the Commission's agents for design and construction. At the time that survey was conducted, some 800 Darwin residents indicated their interest in using the agencies of the Commission for this purpose.

499 Mr TUNGUTALUM to Miss ANDREW—

The Berrimah School has an enrolment which is considerably over the capacity for which the building is designed. What steps is the Department of Education taking to alleviate the problem?

ANSWER

Construction is planned for an estimated completion date in August 1976. If this is achieved, the school could be open in third term of that year. However, because of normal building delays, it is more likely at the moment to be at the beginning of 1977. The school is planned in two stages with stage 1 to accommodate approximately 200 children and staff. There is no pre-school. There is provision for an eventual stage 2 which will take the size of the school up to 500 students but no timetable for the building of this has yet been established. The children from this area will continue to attend the Berrimah Primary School and the Department, in association with the DRC and the Department of Housing and Construction, is attempting to have extensions at the Berrimah school completed for the commencement of next year. This will allow the school to accommodate both local children and those from Howard Springs without overcrowding.

500 Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTS—

I am aware that members of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission have their deputies; for example, the honourable member for Fannie Bay is an able deputy of the Majority Leader. Who is the deputy of the person normally representing the Department of Housing and Construction and the Department of Urban and Regional Development?

ANSWER

The deputy of Mr Alan Reiher, the permanent head of the Department of Housing and Construction is a Mr Keith Rodda who is an Assistant Secretary of the Department. The member representing the Department of Urban and Regional Development—although that is not the way it is expressed in the act—is the Assistant Secretary of the Department of Regional Development, Mr Peter Thiele, and the person who has represented him as deputy is Mr Terry Wardlaw.

501 Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTS—

Have either Mr Rodda or Mr Wardlaw sat as members of the Commission when tenders were being discussed?

ANSWER

I would not like to entirely rely on my memory on this matter. My memory tells me that Mr Rodda did sit at a special meeting that we had in Canberra to examine and discuss tenders that were issued by the Darwin Reconstruction Commission. However, I would like the opportunity to get the list and inform the honourable member later in the day.

502 Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTS—

Is Mr Wardlaw a full time member of the Commission and employed in no other capacity or is he a member of the consultancy firm Crooks Michell Peacock and Stewart?

ANSWER

I won't ask the honourable member to place that question on notice although I think it is the kind of question that one must answer absolutely accurately. I will find out the answer and advise her later in the day.

503 Mr DONDAS to Mr POLLOCK—

In the light of the shortage of doctors at Darwin Hospital, what arrangements have been made to rectify this?

ANSWER

The shortage of doctors in the Territory as a whole and in particular at the Darwin Hospital is causing the officers of the Department of Health here in Darwin great concern and it is causing concern to myself as well. The department has been advertising fortnightly for officers. I saw the advertisements in last Saturday's press along with advertisements for Alice Springs. However, I did notice in the advertisements that the commencing salary was \$10,700 which is ridiculously low and is in no way going to attract medical officers from other parts of Australia to the Northern Territory as a whole, let alone Darwin where we have the problem of accommodation. To help overcome this shortage, the Minister for Health is, I believe, after with discussions with him at the weekend at Tennant Creek, doing everything he can to get a case to the Public Service Board to get them to increase salaries and therefore attract the doctors and other medical staff so badly needed for the Territory.

504 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr RYAN—

Is he aware that the food stocks held at the emergency centres since the last emergency and as a contingency against the next have an expiry date, and that in fact tins of milk probably are now considered stale and not fit for human consumption? If not, would he check this please and advise the Assembly?

ANSWER

I am the Executive Member responsible on the Emergency Committee. I was not aware of the situation and I will be in contact with the honourable member and follow it through and try and give an answer later on in these sittings.

505 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr RYAN—

Is he aware of recent increases in air fares which have affected all Territory centres? If so, has he considered making representations to the Transport Minister of the Australian Government with a view to some mitigation of these increases in favour of Territory residents?

ANSWER

I am aware of the increase in the air fares in the Northern Territory and in fact for the whole of Australia. I have not as yet made any moves to approach the Minister for Transport. I am prepared to do just that on the advice of my colleague. However, I don't feel that we would have much chance of changing the Federal Minister's mind on this particular point.

506 Mr VALE to Mr KILGARIFF—

Can he advise if a Government Grant is to be made to a service club in Central Australia for redevelopment work on the old Hamilton Downs homestead?

ANSWER

Yes, the Minister for Tourism and Recreation has recently announced that in grants made to the Territory in this last few months there is a grant for \$10,000 to the Apex Hamilton Downs Youth Club.

507 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TAMBLING—

Some two years ago, legislation was passed through the Legislative Council prohibiting the use of motor vehicles and motor bikes on prescribed beaches and one of those beaches is Casuarina beach. Are signs to be prominently displayed indicating the prohibition of these motor vehicles, as Casuarina beach is assuming the proportions of a speedway?

ANSWER

I will pursue the matter raised by the honourable member for Nightcliff with the appropriate department and inform her at these sittings what action is proposed.

508 Mr DONDAS to Miss ANDREW—

There have been reports that there have been delays in the supply of electricity to householders. When will that matter be rectified?

ANSWER

The number of applications for reconnection have been very high, especially in the last couple of months, and although the staff of the Electricity Supply Undertaking is back at a normal level they simply can't cope with these demands. Additional crews are being negotiated. Three line crews and three electrical inspectors from the Capricornia Regional Electricity Supply Undertaking will arrive on Monday and commence work. The ESU are still negotiating for other crews but there is no definite outcome. I imagine that the delays will be somewhat shorter as from next week.

509 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr KILGARIFF—

How many people have been charged by the police for driving motor vehicles on prescribed beaches and how many members of the Northern Territory Police Force have ever been instructed to control beaches for the purposes of warning or charging people?

ANSWER

I do not have the answers here but I will obtain them and reply to the question later.

510 Mr DONDAS to Mr SPEAKER—

Mr Speaker, I address this question to you without notice in the hope that you may be able to offer some information with regard to the future office accommodation for the back benchers of this Assembly.

ANSWER

In anticipation of a question of this kind I did prepare an answer. I am extremely disturbed at the lack of action to rehabilitate this building and only this morning I rang the Deputy Director of the Department of Housing and Construction and the Acting Manager of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission. I am informed that the final design drawings will go to the commission today and that tenders will be advertised next week. Even if a contract is awarded without any delays, I am very doubtful that this building will be waterproof before the beginning of the wet season.

With regard to members' offices, I am aware of the totally unsatisfactory conditions existing in the present offices in Block 1. These offices are temporary and I have asked for urgent consideration of our needs by the Reconstruction Commission. The best we can hope for is some demountable offices located on the floor slabs at the back of this Chamber. But if these cannot be obtained in a short time, I hope that I can get accommodation on the ground floor of Block 3 next door. That building is still under repair but I have made my wishes known to the Department of Services and Property.

511 Mr ROBERTSON to Mr KILGARIFF—

Is he aware of an apparent shortage of police uniforms, particularly in the Alice Springs region? Is he also aware that this is causing such unsightly scenes as policemen with half winter and half summer uniforms worn at the same time? If he is aware of this, what is being done to rectify the situation?

ANSWER

I am aware of the situation and in fact I read in the NT News this morning some reference to "Dad's Army". I have had correspondence with the Commissioner of Police and this morning on my desk I found a letter from him in which he says: "Our 1975 supplies of uniforms were decimated as a result of Cyclone Tracy. Supplies of uniforms destined for the Alice Springs area were destroyed at the Darwin Aerodrome. Attempts made to obtain replacement supplies of uniforms have been frustrated by industrial disputes and the inability of contractors to supply at comparatively short notice, especially as the better materials used in the past have been supplied by overseas sources. Our planning had provided for new-style uniforms to be issued early in 1976 and, because of the 1975 shortages, arrangements have been made to bring forward the supply date for new uniforms. Contracts have been let. The broad brim hat will be retained as an item of uniform for Northern Territory Police". That last sentence relates to requests from the Northern Territory Police Force that the slouch hat should be retained. They will be pleased to know that it is going to be retained as an item of equipment.

512 Mr KENTISH to Mr SPEAKER—

Is any attention being given to the air conditioning of this Chamber at the earliest possible time?

ANSWER

The air conditioning will be restored when tenders are let, probably next week, for the rehabilitation of the buildings.

513 Mr STEELE to Mr TAMBLING—

How many swop blocks are available for persons affected by surge and buffer areas? Will residents be given a choice of blocks?

ANSWER

I am aware that proposals relating to swop blocks and to general land acquisition proposals have been under consideration by the Department of Northern Australia and the Darwin Reconstruction Commission. However, I have not been able to ascertain what stage the negotiations have reached and in fact I express my concern that these people are being left without sufficient answers and without sufficient availability of land to rebuild.

514 Mr STEELE to Dr LETTS—

Will he ask the Darwin Reconstruction Commission to state clearly for the benefit of the Darwin public the limits of their assistance in respect of tying down caravans, screwing down roofs, and the many other forms of assistance which have been offered to Darwin residents?

ANSWER

Yes.

515 Mr STEELE to Mr POLLOCK—

Is it a fact that the Department of Aboriginal Affairs has made an offer to purchase the Finnis River Cattle Company? If so, what price has been offered and on what basis has a valuation been made to support the offer?

ANSWER

I don't know the answer to the question. I ask the honourable member to place the question on notice.

516 Mr ROBERTSON to Miss ANDREW—

Could she ascertain from the Controller of Rents by tomorrow what is the longest period that has transpired between an application for a rent determination and the actual determination being made, what is the average period taken, and what is the longest period as at this date that he has held a current application pending determination?

ANSWER

I will endeavour to collect that information and give it to the honourable member tomorrow.

517 Mr KENTISH to Mr KILGARRIFF—

I refer to two young men, the Harvey Brothers, who were in Fannie Bay Gaol prior to the cyclone serving a sentence of 4 years for a rape at Mataranka. I understand that these two men were released at the time of the cyclone. Could he ascertain whether these men have been pardoned or have since been reinterned to serve their sentence?

ANSWER

It is my understanding that when these two men were released from gaol, it was a type of pardon and they have not been returned to gaol. That advice could be incorrect and I will check on it and answer the honourable member later.

518 Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTS—

Yesterday I asked the Majority Leader without notice if either of the deputies of members of the Commission had sat as members of the Commission when tenders were being discussed—the two deputies concerned are Mr Rodda and Mr Wardlaw. He replied that he would advise me. Can he now present that advice?

ANSWER

At two Commission meetings dated 17 April 1975 and 5 May 1975 Mr Rodda and Mr Wardlaw sat in attendance to the full time Commissioner during discussions on housing tenders. That is to say, they sat in as advisors.

519 Mr TUNGUTALUM to Mr TUXWORTH—

When will a Tourist Promotion Association be formed on Bathurst Island?

ANSWER

The formation of a Tourist Promotion Association on Bathurst Island would be a matter for the people of Bathurst Island to decide at their own leisure. However, if the honourable member feels it would be of any help, I would be only too pleased to assist him to do this.

520 Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTS—

At any time when any of the deputies sat in an advisory capacity to the Commission, has the firm of Crooks, Michell, Peacock and Stewart been one of the firms engaged in applying for a tender contract?

ANSWER

I believe the answer to the honourable member's question is no. They sat in on discussions for housing tenders and the firm she alluded to is not concerned in housing tenders. However, I will take note of the question and check it out.

521 Mr STEELE to Mr KILGARRIFF—

Would he call on the Minister for Northern Australia to investigate the difference in prices which exists between Valuer-General valuations and private valuers?

ANSWER

I have taken note of the request and I will do so.

522 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr KILGARRIFF—

Can he now advise me whether the Police Commissioner has ever instructed any members of the force to patrol beaches for the purpose of either warning or apprehending people driving motor vehicles on prescribed beaches?

ANSWER

Following her question yesterday, I took up the matter with the Commissioner of Police and I asked him if any charges had been made against persons driving motor vehicles on beaches. He replied that there had been no charges. I also asked him whether police carry out regular patrols in relation to the above matter. His reply was that there are regular patrols from Casuarina Police Station with intermittent patrols from Darwin Station. There are specific instructions at Casuarina Police Station in relation to this matter.

523 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr KILGARRIFF—

Is he aware of the serious situation presently existing regarding the illegal use of beaches by people driving motor vehicles, with a consequent danger to life and limb, especially of young children?

ANSWER

I have no personal knowledge of this type of offence being carried out on this particular beach. However, I have received complaints which indicate that there are vehicles using these beaches illegally to the detriment of people in the area.

524 Mr STEELE to Dr LETTS—

Has the Majority Leader been provided with a financial report as to the operation of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission to 30 June 1975?

ANSWER

I am not quite sure what the honourable member means when he speaks about a financial report. Is he talking about an audit report or what particular type of financial report does he mean? Perhaps he might be able to clarify his question.

Mr STEELE:

The report referred to is under section 58 of the Darwin Reconstruction Act: "The Commission shall as soon as practicable after the end of the financial year prepare and furnish the Minister a report of the operations of the Commission during that year, together with financial statements in respect of that year in such forms as the Treasurer approves".

Dr LETTS:

I have not received any final documents of this type yet. The auditor's report goes to the Minister who then is obliged to table it in the Federal House within a certain period of time. I know that the Auditor-General has been very active in the Commission and it is probable, though I am not certain of this, that he has completed his report and it may now be in the Minister's hands.

525 Mr VALE to Mr POLLOCK—

This question is asked on behalf of the Member for Elsey. Can he advise whether the proposed Aboriginal Lands Bill can be presented to this Assembly prior to presentation to the Federal Parliament?

ANSWER

A formal request has been made by the Minister for Northern Australia, Dr Patterson, to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs asking that copies of legislation pertaining to Aboriginal lands, associations and incorporations be forwarded to the appropriate executive members of this Assembly prior to presentation in the Federal Houses. As yet, no copies have been received and I am unable to say when they may be received.

526 Mr DONDAS to Mr POLLOCK—

Who is responsible for classifying the classification of prisoners for suitable people to be placed at the Gunn Point Prison Farm?

ANSWER

As I understand it, the general classification is made by the superintendent of particular prisons. In Darwin, it would be made by the Superintendent of the Fannie Bay Gaol on the recommendation to the Controller of Prisons who then would carry the responsibility for the decision. Of course, any transfer of prisoners is with the consent of the Administrator.

527 Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTS—

Is the person at present occupying the position of principal architect with the Darwin Reconstruction Commission employed as a consultant? Is he a full time staff member employed under public service regulations with normal procedures applying? Was that person appointed by the Commission as a whole or, if not, by which members and on what authority?

ANSWER

I can't answer all the question at the moment but I can answer the last part of it in a similar way to the answer I gave yesterday. The position of Chief Architect was not a matter of appointment by the Commission as a whole but he would have been appointed as a staff member under delegation given to the Chairman and Acting General Manager. I have indicated before that the Commissioners themselves are only concerned with individual appointments at what we might call the Second Division level. This particular appointment has not been before the Commission as a whole.

528 Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTS—

The Majority Leader did say in his reply that this person was appointed as a staff member. Would he clarify that? Is this a permanent appointment as a staff member and, if so, when people are so appointed, are they directed to sever all connection with any other firm that they may have had? Obviously there could be a conflict of interests or a divided loyalty.

ANSWER

I can be a little more explicit. As I understand it, the permanent appointment of Second Division positions would come before the Commission but somebody acting or temporarily engaged in that position would not necessarily do so. The likelihood in this case is that it is only an acting position that we are talking about. I will find out and inform the honourable member later.

529 Mr ROBERTSON to Mr TAMBLING—

Have tenders been let for the proposed 20 new government homes in Katherine?

ANSWER

I have made inquiries about this question as I was given prior notice of it but I have not received an answer at this stage. I will endeavour to make one available later this day.

530 Mr DONDAS to Mr POLLOCK—

When will arrangements be made to erect a security fence around the Fannie Bay gaol?

ANSWER

In many respects, I would hope never. There are no arrangements to erect a fence around the Fannie Bay gaol at the moment. The situation of the prisoners has been one of considerable concern. It has been of concern that no firm decisions have been made in relation to what is going to happen. I have seen several press reports on this matter in the last couple of weeks. In one, the Attorney General advocated the reconstruction of the fence around the Fannie Bay prison. I have not been able to gain any advice about any moves for the reconstruction of a fence around the prison. In many respects I hope that they will not be able to use the site much longer at all.

531 Mr WITHNALL to Mr TAMBLING—

How many persons have indicated to the Commonwealth their preparedness to surrender land in Darwin to the Commonwealth? How many formal offers to surrender have been made? How many surrenders of land have been effected? In how many cases in which the surrenders have actually been made has compensation been paid?

ANSWER

The honourable member for Port Darwin had a similar question on notice which came to my attention several weeks ago. An answer was given on that occasion with regard to the formal offers and surrenders that had been made at that date. I will endeavour to obtain updated information in that regard for him. His first question related to how many indications of blocks have been made. I am aware that the Darwin Reconstruction Commission through the agency of the Department of Northern Australia did conduct a survey some time ago in which people were asked to indicate how many blocks would be available for surrender. I was of the opinion at that time that well in excess of 1,000 blocks were indicated as being available; however, I will endeavour to obtain a full and accurate answer for the honourable member at these sittings.

532 Mr KENTISH to Miss ANDREW—

What steps, if any, have been taken to upgrade the school buildings and teacher accommodation at Roper River Mission?

ANSWER

I do not have that information available at the moment but I will endeavour to reply during tomorrow's question time.

533 Mr WITHNALL to Dr LETTS—

Is it a fact that no member of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission can be described as a business man and has any member of the Commission any experience in business and commerce?

ANSWER

I do not think that any members of the Reconstruction Commission have been asked to give their occupations. I certainly have not seen any list as to whether they are business men or business women. Certainly some of them are engaged in businesses of one form or another.

534 Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTS—

Is the Commission as a whole aware that people who are occupying senior staff positions are members of consultancy firms who are being funded by the Commission and who are applying for tenders and contracts?

ANSWER

The Commission has been concerned at the question of possible conflict of interests and is having this matter thoroughly investigated to make sure that in any future appointments no conflict of interests will occur.

I have some answers to questions which the honourable member asked yesterday which clarify the relationship of certain people in acting positions on the Commission with outside firms and I intend to give that information at the end of question time.

535 Mr ROBERTSON to Mr RYAN—

Is any firefighting appliance available at Mataranka and, if not, what is supposed to be done in the event of a fire?

ANSWER

I do not have the answer to that question. I will be in contact with the Fire Chief and endeavour to give an answer later in the sittings.

536 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr KILGARRIFF—

Is there a boxing control body in the Northern Territory and, if not, what steps have been taken to form such a boxing control body to assist trainers, referees, youth and sporting bodies?

ANSWER

I am not able to answer the question as I am unaware whether there is a boxing control authority in the Northern Territory. Perhaps, the honourable member for Community Development may be able to give an answer. Perhaps the best way around it is for the honourable member to put the question on notice.

537 Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTS—

Has the Administrator's Council yet considered the appointment of a Parole Board? If so, have they approached members of the Public to be appointed to the Parole Board and when is it expected that the board will be appointed?

ANSWER

The honourable member for Nightcliff asked similar questions at previous sittings. I indicated to her that certain aspects of the matter were under investigation by an interdepartmental committee and I did ask the honourable member to place her question on notice which she has not done. I again ask her to place her question on notice.

538 Mr ROBERTSON to Mr KILGARRIFF—

He alluded yesterday to the formation of an industrial relations council. Is it intended that this council will operate in Alice Springs and, if so, what effect does he consider that would have on industrial relations in that centre?

ANSWER

There is an Industrial Affairs Council formed in the Northern Territory now; the inaugural meeting was held in Darwin some weeks ago. It is hoped that areas such as Alice Springs will either form themselves into branches of this particular council or participate in the council itself. I believe that an Industrial Affairs Council in Alice Springs can foster good relations in industry. Regarding Alice Springs, it is my intention to meet people in industry in the near future. I would invite the honourable member for Gillen to make suitable arrangements in Alice Springs whereby members of industry, unions and so on, can be asked to a meeting where the whole matter can be discussed.

539 Mr KILGARRIFF to Mr SPEAKER—

What is the present position regarding the printing of daily Hansard and bound Hansard?

ANSWER

With regard to the printed Hansard, honourable members will have received this week the first volume covering the November 1974 and the January 1975 meetings. Bulk supplies of this volume should be available within the next week. I understand that a full statement covering all outstanding printings of Hansard will probably be coming from the Publications Committee next week and I will leave that detail for that report.

With regard to the unrevised edition, I do not think it will be possible to produce this as a daily copy until such time as the Hansard offices are fully repaired. Nevertheless, I think honourable members can look forward to a faster publication than previously. I hope that future publications will be within a week of the sitting.

540 ANSWER TO QUESTION—

Mr KILGARRIFF: The honourable member for Ludmilla asked a question regarding the Compensation and Repatriation Department and he asked me to ascertain whether there had been instructions not to pay any further cheques to businesses. The answer is that there have been no instructions whatsoever not to pay cheques to businesses. If the honourable member has any specific matter in mind, I would ask him to refer it to me.

541 ANSWER TO QUESTION—

Dr LETTS: The honourable member for Nightcliff asked whether the Acting Chief Planner was an employee of the Commission or of the Melbourne based firm Crooks, Michell, Peacock and Stewart Pty Ltd. The answer is that the Acting Chief Planner is a salaried member of the Sydney based firm Crooks, Michell, Peacock and Stewart Pty Ltd. The head office is given if she is interested in that information.

542 ANSWER TO QUESTION—

Dr LETTS: The honourable member for Nightcliff asked whether I was aware that the Acting Deputy General Manager was a consultant from the Melbourne based firm of Crooks, Michell, Peacock and Stewart and whether the full Board of the Commission appointed him and, if so, on what authority. The answer is that the Acting Deputy General Manager, Mr John Nairn, is a salaried director of the Sydney based firm Crooks, Michell, Peacock and Stewart Pty Ltd. The appointment to the position of Acting Deputy General Manager of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission was made by the Chairman of the Commission, Mr Powell, in consultation with the Acting General Manager. That part confirms the advice I gave yesterday.

543 ANSWER TO QUESTION—

Dr LETTS: The honourable member for Ludmilla asked whether the Darwin Reconstruction Commission would make a public statement on the levels of assistance it has advertised and proposed to the public, particularly the tying down of caravans and the screwing down of roofs. The Darwin Reconstruction will be making a public statement on the levels of assistance to the private sector in Darwin when the proposals at present under consideration by the government have been determined. It is proposed in the next week or two to produce a booklet suggesting a suitable method for tying down caravans. This booklet will be available free to the public. The cost of tying down the caravan will be met by the owner of the caravan. The Commission has a continuing programme under way for the screwing down of roofs through its agent the Department of Housing and Construction. The Commission proposes to supply at cost cyclone shelters for persons on request.

544 ANSWER TO QUESTION—

Dr LETTS: The honourable member for Port Darwin asked whether I could advise on the assistance being given to the private sector by the Darwin Reconstruction Commission and, in particular, whether the DRC has a list of approved builders and whether it will build a house on private land using the client's privately prepared plans. The further information I have is that assistance to the private sector by the Darwin Reconstruction Commission is provided in a variety of ways: the Housing Advisory Service, Government Housing Plans, Technical advice through Housing Advisory Service and area managers, sale and loan of building manuals, assistance in clean up, etc. The Darwin Reconstruction Commission does not have a list of approved builders and is not able to construct a private house using privately prepared plans on a private block. I do not believe that this alters the part of the answer I gave yesterday which indicated that I understood it was the policy of the Commission to assist through using its agents, when available, for private rebuilding programs.

545 Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTS—

Would he advise the Assembly later this sitting day the names of the architects in the Darwin Reconstruction Commission who have advised the Commission on each of the four occasions on which they have been considered housing contracts? There have been four separate contracts let and I would like the names of the architects who advised them in each case.

ANSWER

I do not know that there were 4 occasions on which they sat to consider housing contracts because, while I know that there are 4 principal contractors who have been involved, I think that they were dealt with collectively at one sitting. But I understand what she wants and I will endeavour to have the information by lunch time.

546 Mr VALE to Mr RYAN—

Can he advise when and where the next Rural Roads Conference will be held?

ANSWER

I believe it will be held in Katherine in November or thereabouts.

547 Mr DONDAS to Mr TAMBLING—

With reference to the waiting list for Housing Commission and Government accommodation, how many applications for accommodation does the Housing Commission have and how many does the Government have? When do they expect to be able to satisfy the people on the current accommodation waiting list?

ANSWER

I was present at an accommodation co-ordination committee meeting last week where figures of this nature were tendered. The figures given at that meeting were that the Housing Commission waiting list was 849 and the Department of Northern Australia waiting list was in the order of approximately 700. It was also indicated to that committee that there were 92 families on board the Patris which would involve some 255 people. On board the Patris there were 486 single people at that date. I understand that caravans and demountables have been on order for some time by the Department and they are being distributed roughly on a 50-50 proportion between the Department and the Housing Commission. There was at that date a figure of 1,172 caravans and demountables in transit or awaiting handover in Darwin.

548 Mr TUNGUTALUM to Mr KILGARIFF—

Would he advise me when the police station will be built at Bathurst Island?

ANSWER

I am unable to give a definite answer to the honourable member. The Government has indicated that, if isolated communities wish to have police stations, then they should make representation. I understand Bathurst Island has made representation. I can say no more than that but perhaps in the next few days the situation will become clearer.

549 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr RYAN—

Is it his intention to table a full report on the recent meeting of the Australian Transport Ministers' Conference which he attended as the Northern Territory representative?

ANSWER

I had not intended to table a report.

550 Mr DONDAS to Mr KILGARIFF—

How many applications have been received by the Home Loan Finance Department this year? How many applications to date have been received?

ANSWER

The honourable member gave notice of that question this morning and I have referred it to the Home Finance Officer. He is now ascertaining the figures and I will have the answer for him later today.

551 Mr WITHNALL to Dr LETTS—

In his capacity as a member of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission, can he tell me for whom the 1,300 houses now under construction are destined? How many of them are for use by the Housing Commission and how many for the Commonwealth Public Service and how many for use by private persons?

ANSWER

I assume that the honourable member for Port Darwin is talking about the 1,300 houses that were announced in 4 contracts, 3 of 400 and 1 of 100. I assume that is what he is talking about because there are other contracts for housing that are being negotiated or being let. As I understand it, all of those houses are being constructed for the public sector and the allocation will be within the province of the Department of Northern Australia. The authorizations for construction for the Housing Commission are handled separately.

552 Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTS—

I refer to open government in which I know he believes. Is the Country Liberal Party parliamentary wing policy that when executive members attend various conferences in that capacity they present a report to the Assembly?

ANSWER

I do believe in open government and so does my party. The answer to the honourable member's question is that it depends on the type of conference which members attend. If I take the case of the Constitutional Convention, at the open plenary session of the convention I believe that the Assembly delegates, the honourable member for Port Darwin and myself, would be obliged to give this Assembly a detailed and documented report on what took place. When it comes to the meetings of the executives of the convention, certain matters are discussed that are confidential subject to final decision by the Prime Minister and, while a report in general can often be given in that situation, you cannot get down the fine print and detail. When it comes to the standing committees of the constitutional convention which report to the executive, there is little information from those standing committees which is public knowledge to anybody outside the standing committee.

Advertising to Commonwealth-State Ministers Conferences, there are large numbers of these and in no case that I know of do the ministers attending those conferences go back and make a report to their state parliaments. Rather, they make a report to their Cabinet because in most cases there is legislation of some sort considered at those meetings which does not become public knowledge until it is drafted and introduced into the legislature in the normal way. In any report that was given of attendance at one of those conferences, there would be some general information that could be released and there would be some confidential information that could not be. The approach in advising the Assembly would have to be on that basis.

553 Mr KENTISH to Mr POLLOCK—

Would he obtain for me the total amount of money paid to housing consultants by the Aboriginal housing associations in the Northern Territory since 1 January 1973 and the number and value of houses built as a result of their advice?

ANSWER

I ask that the question be placed on notice. I am not able to say whether I would be able to get the information or not.

554 Mr DONDAS to Mr TAMBLING—

Is it true that the old DCA cottages in Parap Road are to be demolished in the near or immediate future? How many people are currently occupying these houses as temporary accommodation and where will they be relocated?

ANSWER

I will endeavour to seek a reply.

555 Mr PERRON to Miss ANDREW—

It is reported that schools in the Territory are closing an hour earlier today as a result of the strike by teachers. Would she please explain the reasons for this strike?

ANSWER

I think that the sentiments behind this strike are most commendable. It arises from a deep concern by the Teachers Federation for education in the Territory. Their concern is that in the forthcoming budget there will be considerable cuts in the field of education in the Territory. It has taken a long time to get education anywhere near on its feet and they are concerned that any cuts in comparison to the Schools Commission's recommendations will be disastrous.

556 Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTS—

What action has he taken to require the Administrator to indicate his assent or to reserve the Cattle Prices Stabilization Ordinance, and does he know why the Administrator has failed to act in the matter?

ANSWER

I have not taken any action directly to ask the Administrator or to suggest the Administrator might hasten assent to this ordinance. I have had a number of discussions with leaders of the cattle industry in the Northern Territory and also senior departmental officers about the implementation and administration of the ordinance. I believe that, as it is presently worded in relation to the price of cattle in the Northern Territory, it is virtually impossible to implement and operate. The ordinance was drafted and introduced at the end of last cattle season, a time when beef prices were in the order of ten and eleven cents a pound. Within the same range, we are now talking about four, five, six cents and the actual calculations contained in the ordinance mean that the lower figure would drop off the bottom of the map as it were. Taking a four cent price, you have not enough room to make the adjustments that the ordinance suggests so that in the present economic situation that particular ordinance cannot work. It would either have to be amended or the price of beef lifted before it could be operational.

557 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr KILGARIFF—

What action has he taken to have the recommendations contained in the McKinna Report on the police force put into effect? Has he communicated with the Minister or ministers as the case may be on the matter?

ANSWER

I have directed to the Commissioner of Police a question on similar lines. At present, I have not received an answer but when I do I will make it available to the honourable member.

558 Mr PERRON to Mr KILGARIFF—

Can he explain why copies of many NT ordinances are not available to the public and what is being done to rectify this serious situation?

ANSWER

I can answer the honourable member but I cannot give him a particular happy picture. There are no prints available of this year's legislation. Printing of numbers one to fifteen are under way. In the meantime, the Legislation Branch is making photocopies available to meet public demand. There are no copies at all of a number of items of previous years' legislation. A number of reprints to include some of the missing items are underway but no one knows when these will be completed and printed. The general rule is that no more than one copy of any piece of legislation is made available to a person from Darwin supplies. If more are required, they must be obtained from Brisbane where bulk stocks of legislation are now held. The legislation that had been held in Darwin has been transferred to Brisbane. These are incomplete. I would also point out that the rule for one copy is a rule for emergent circumstances.

559 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr KILGARIFF—

Has he any intention to reform the laws of the Territory relating to the possessions of firearms? If so, can he give any indication when he intends to present the legislation and would he be willing to indicate the type of reform he has in mind?

ANSWER

I cannot, looking specifically at the review of the Firearms Ordinance, but there is a general review being carried out now with those people who are assisting me. I have two assistants, the member for Jingili and the member for Gillen, and they have contact with the various organisations associated with law and are assisting me in a review of legislation. When this is completed, legislation will be introduced. At the same time, I will have in mind that the firearms legislation should be reviewed.

560 Mr DONDAS to Mr POLLOCK—

I asked him a question without notice yesterday with regard to a fence around Fannie Bay Gaol and he was unable to answer me and I ask him the same question today. When will arrangements be made to put a fence around the Fannie Bay Gaol?

ANSWER

I am still trying to gather information and, as I said, I trust that a fence will never be erected around that site. I might add that I hope that next week I will be able to make a full statement in relation to prison matters.

561 Mr WITHNALL to Dr LETTS—

How many journeys out of the Northern Territory have members and staff of the DRC made in the last 2 months?

ANSWER

I do not think that is a reasonable question to be asked without notice. In most circumstances, I would ask the honourable member for Port Darwin to place it on notice but, in view of the expected course of our program in this Assembly over the next day or so, I will endeavour to find out that information and furnish him with a reply later today.

562 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr RYAN—

Are the current shipping cargo rates available from the Darwin Trader? If so, can he supply a list of the cubic capacity rates, container rates; that is, ordinary, refrigerated, vehicle and power boat charges?

ANSWER

I ask that the question be placed on notice.

563 Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTS—

Would he be prepared to table the terms and conditions under which consultants are engaged by the DRC? There must be a general policy of terms and conditions under which most consultants are engaged.

ANSWER

Although I know that the Commission has asked the staff to prepare such a document, I am not sure whether it has been finalised. I am also in the position whereby, if it is a general ruling of the Commission sitting as a

body, any particular piece of information is for the time being the property of the Commission and I am not free to table it here. I will check the matter out and, if it is at all possible, I will comply with the request of the honourable member.

564 Mr KENTISH to Mr TAMBLING—

Towards the end of May, a report was produced concerning recommended or projected usage of rural lands from Berrimah to Adelaide River. Can he advise me what has been the Reconstruction Commission's reaction to this plan, whether they have adopted it en masse or whether there is available from them any statement of their view about this?

ANSWER

In my capacity as the Majority Leader's deputy on the Darwin Reconstruction Commission, I was present at the subcommittee meetings which looked at the rural land proposals as outlined in the Pak Poy Report, copies of which I believe have been available for perusal. That report was considered by the subcommittee which made a number of recommendations relating to specific areas. I am aware that those motions and recommendations were finalised probably some 3 to 4 weeks ago but, at this stage, I am not aware of any subsequent action that has been taken by the Darwin Reconstruction Commission with regard to those subcommittee recommendations.

565 Mr PERRON to Mr POLLOCK—

Has the honourable member received a complete list of Aboriginal land claims from the Northern Land Council or whoever makes Aboriginal land claims.

ANSWER

No.

566 Mr DONDAS to Mr TAMBLING—

What departmental action is proposed for the restoration of government owned flats in Smith Street between McLachlan and Daly Streets? How many of these flats are currently occupied?

ANSWER

I do not have the information but I will endeavour to obtain it today and advise him at this sitting.

567 Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTS—

At least in this Assembly there have been calls for the meeting of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission to be open other than for the purposes of discussion of tenders and contracts which clearly would have to be in camera. Has there been a motion put forward to the Reconstruction Commission for such action? If so, how many times?

ANSWER

The suggestion that the meetings should be open to the press has been brought forward to the Commission on several occasions. I formally moved a motion to that effect which was duly seconded but it was not carried by a majority of the Commission. I subsequently pursued the matter and, with the help of the Minister for Northern Australia, eventually was able to get the press admitted to part of the sessions of the Reconstruction Commission although they are not there for a number of items which are regarded as restricted or confidential.

568 Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTS—

Other than for the discussion of tenders and contracts, whose decision is it that other subjects for discussion shall be regarded as classified and not open to the press?

ANSWER

I believe that the recommendation for classification of material comes from senior staff who prepare much of the material that comes forward as agenda items. The draft agendas and the synopses of the individual items are seen by the Chairman of the Commission before they are brought to the Commission. I take it that he puts his final approval on the classifications that have been recommended by the staff.

569 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr KILGARRIFF—

Why should large stocks of Northern Territory legislation be held by the Department of Northern Australia in Brisbane where it would be of very limited use?

ANSWER

Frankly, I cannot understand why bulk supplies of legislation were transferred to Brisbane. It was decided by the Department that the Legislation Section should be transferred to Brisbane. When the move became known, the Majority Leader indicated his concern to the Minister and to the Department. It is considered that the transfer of the Legislation Section from Darwin to Brisbane is detrimental to this Assembly and the people of the Territory.

570 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr RYAN—

Has he any word on when the sealing of the South Australian section of the Stuart Highway may commence?

ANSWER

At a conference I recently attended in South Australia, I was able to have informal discussions with the Federal Minister for Transport and the South Australian Minister for Transport on the subject of the Stuart Highway in the north of South Australia. They informed me jointly that money would not be made available for the sealing of that road until the Eyre Highway had been completed. It would appear, at this time, that nothing will be done constructively on the Stuart Highway in South Australia until the end of next year or early in 1977.

571 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr KILGARIFF—

When will the proposed new police boats for the Northern Territory be completed and delivered and for what purpose will they be used?

ANSWER

I do not have the answer to hand but I will obtain it for him.

572 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr KILGARIFF—

My question relates to two incidents of violence at Aboriginal camps, which have occurred recently and which have received some press coverage. Would he advise the Assembly at some early date, how many police are engaged in the investigation of these incidents and what is their rank?

ANSWER

At the moment, I have a question directed to the Commissioner regarding this matter. When I have an answer, I will advise the member.

573 ANSWER TO QUESTION—

Miss ANDREW: I would like to answer a question from the honourable member for Arnhem regarding Roper River. My answer is and I quote: "An extensive restoration and maintenance as well as a new works contract of approximately \$115,000 was let late last year by Housing and Construction for the upgrading of the school building and residences. The contractors subsequently withdrew without having started on the job. Tenders were called again and the contract has now been let. This contractor is currently on site. In addition, a contract has been let for the erection of two 3-bedroom houses, and two 2-bedroom houses and work is under way. Additional transportable classrooms have been ordered to provide accommodation. Work has commenced on siting two transportable units."

574 ANSWER TO QUESTION—

Miss ANDREW: The member for Stuart Park asked: "Who authorised the removal of soil from Pilot Hill on the foreshore of Frances Bay? What is the soil being used for and have the environmental and tidal aspects been studied?" My reply is that the land is part of block 2453 with the company Northern Research as lessee. The manager of Northern Research authorised the removal of certain sections to provide a base area for a long-planned company extension. The soil was sold to the Department of Works by Morandini Contracting Ltd who implemented the removal. The tidal aspects have been studied and, at present, the ground is being reduced to approximately the 11 metre mark. It seems that no environmental study was carried out.

575 ANSWER TO QUESTION—

Mr KILGARIFF: The honourable member for Jingili asked whether owners of blocks in the surge line can obtain insurance against tidal wave and all flood risk. I discussed the matter with insurance authorities and the answer is: "Owners of domestic residences, irrespective of whether they are inside or outside any surge line area, have never been able to obtain householder's insurance against damage by tidal wave and or flood risk. It could be possible for owners of commercial properties, under a fire policy not under a householder's policy, depending on payment of an appropriate premium applied by the underwriter. Approaches are being made by the insurance companies to consider forming a national disaster fund, funded not only by the Commonwealth Government but also insurance companies. No reply has yet been received from the Federal Government."

576 Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTS—

I refer to an answer given to a question concerning the acquisition of a block of land for the sum of \$115,000. The answer intimated that this block had been bought for the Darwin Reconstruction Commission for the purposes of reconstruction. For what specific purpose did the Darwin Reconstruction Commission require that block?

ANSWER

I will obtain the information during the course of the day and relay it to the honourable member today or tomorrow morning.

577 Mr DONDAS to Miss ANDREW

In view of the apparent lack of funds in last night's Budget for the Community College, could she please tell me what the future of the Community College is now?

ANSWER

This morning I have been making extensive inquiries trying to determine exactly where the allocations for the Community College for permanent restoration or rebuilding on a new site are to come from. In his speech, Mr Beazley made reference to \$2.3 million for capital works. However, it seems that this will be swallowed up in Alice Springs, the Linguistic Centre in Batchelor plus temporary restoration in Darwin. I ask the honourable member if I could give him the information at a later date.

578 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr POLLOCK—

Honourable members will be aware of the community creche in the northern suburbs which is conducted in the premises of the former Essington House. There are rumours that the creche is to be evicted from those premises. Can he advise me of the nature of the tenure of the premises held by the creche and will that tenure be confirmed or other satisfactory arrangements made if they are to be evicted?

ANSWER

I will try to find some information later in the day.

579 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TAMBLING—

I asked the Majority Leader a question: "When permanent staff are appointed to the Darwin Reconstruction Commission, will they be directed to sever all connections with outside firms?" The answer to the question was no. Who made that policy decision? Was it the Minister for Northern Australia? Was it the Commission sitting as a whole or, if not, which officers of that commission?

ANSWER

I believe the answer given by the Majority Leader was based on information supplied by the Acting General Manager. However, I would ask the honourable member for Nightcliff to perhaps be more explicit in the phrasing of the actual question. I do not think that it is, in itself, sufficient.

580 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TAMBLING—

Who made the policy decision within the Darwin Reconstruction Commission that, when permanent staff are appointed, they will not be directed to sever connections with private firms?

ANSWER

I am unable to provide that answer. I do not know.

581 Mr PERRON to Mr RYAN—

In view of the fact that international flights have resumed operations through Darwin, what action is being taken to repair the international passenger facilities at the Darwin Airport?

ANSWER

So far as I know, there is no particular action taking place with regard to the airport facilities. I intend to follow this up over the next week or two and to exert pressure to have the terminal facilities repaired and put in a reasonable state for an international airport.

582 Mr DONDAS to Mr KILGARIFF—

Which department is administering the sale of land and houses that the public servants indicated that they wished to purchase prior to December 24? Which department values this land and when will the people in this position be able to have their land?

ANSWER

I will have the information researched and answer him at a later date.

583 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TAMBLING—

In regard to the staffing of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission, under sections 36 and 37 of the Darwin Reconstruction Act, he will be well aware that officers and employees shall be appointed as determined by

the commission with the approval of the Public Service Board. Was the approval of the Public Service Board obtained for the policy decision which was indicated previously; that is, that full time officers will not be directed to sever connections with private firms?

ANSWER

I am aware that the Public Service Board has been approached with regard to the number of positions and levels of positions. I am unable to give a full answer with regard to the implications of other relationships and, as I have already indicated, I will endeavour to obtain this information for the honourable member.

584 Mr VALE to Mr KILGRAFF—

Can he supply details concerning the recent announcement in relation to police carrying firearms?

ANSWER

I have had no communication from the Commissioner of Police but I understand that the ruling is that members of the Northern Territory Police Force are no longer allowed to carry their own personal firearms. I also understand that members of the Police Force are not allowed to carry firearms on duty except on mid-night shift, on escort duty and on other occasions when there is a call out. I understand that there is some dissension in the police force regarding this matter and I understand that it relates to the fact that the police of the Northern Territory are unable to carry their own firearms. The reason for this is that the Police Force of the Northern Territory is still issued with the .38 Smith and Wesson. I understand that the pistols that are still on issue go back to the 1914-1918 war. A newer pistol is on issue but it is of the same manufacture, without any modifications, as those of the last war. These pistols are old and inefficient. I understand the police forces in the other states are equipped with a .38 Smith Special. A report on the Northern Territory Police Force recommends that equipment and pistols should be updated. If a modern type pistol was issued, there would be little dissension.

585 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr KILGARIFF—

The member has indicated that he will present a report to the Assembly on this issue. From the press reports of the incident in Alice Springs, one would assume that a citizen had been firing shots in a built-up area. If this was the case, is it a breach of the law and are charges pending?

ANSWER

I have not any definite information to give but, according to the press reports, there was turmoil and disruption in the northern part of Alice Springs. My understanding is that there were firearms discharged at a person's place. I understand that the police were called and, since they had no firearms themselves, they returned to the police station to equip themselves. I will get the facts for the Assembly and will table the information as quickly as possible. Regarding the other part of the question, it is illegal to discharge a firearm in an urban area.

586 Mr WITHNALL to Mr TUXWORTH—

I have been informed that national mining companies presently operating in the Northern Territory have had applications for exploration licences under the Mining Ordinance before the administration for 9 or 10 months without action. Is it the policy of the government to refuse further new exploration licences altogether and, if so, why is this policy not made public so that waiting exploration companies may take their money to some place where such an embargo does not exist?

ANSWER

The answer in most cases would be yes. However, I will get full details and provide a comprehensive answer later this sitting.

587 Mr PERRON to Mr TAMBLING—

Is it a fact that the Department of Housing and Construction built 240 houses in 9 months in Alice Springs to house Americans? If this is so, why has the Department not been called upon to repeat the performance in Darwin?

ANSWER

I will endeavour to obtain full information with regard to any activity by the Department of Housing and Construction in Alice Springs for provision of homes for Americans connected with the Space Base. With regard to a repeat performance in Darwin, I am aware that the Darwin Reconstruction Commission has entered into considerable negotiations with the Department of Housing and Construction and has the matter of contract housing under constant review.

588 Mr KENTISH to Mr RYAN—

I refer to the Newcastle Waters causeway and the adjoining overflow on the road. Has initial planning and the engineering investigation been completed with regard to the bridging of this area and is it likely that the whole work will be completed by 30 December?

ANSWER

I believe that planning for the up-grading of the road at Newcastle Waters is under way with the Department of Housing and Construction although I do not think it has progressed very far. At the moment, the proposal is before the Parliamentary Works Committee which only met in the Northern Territory a couple of weeks ago. If the approval is given by Cabinet to proceed with the up-grading of the Stuart and Barkly Highways as outlined in the next 3-year program, the Newcastle Waters causeway will receive priority. However, the nature of the job is such that it will require quite extensive engineering planning and it certainly will not be finished by 30 December this year. In fact, it will not be started by then. I would not expect actual construction to take place until the second half of next year.

589 Mr WITHNALL to Miss ANDREW—

Is the honourable member aware that the supply and pressure of water at the Darwin Primary School is so poor that insufficient water is available to service lavatories leading to the probability of a health hazard being created in the very near future? Will she say whether any urgent requisition has gone to the Department of Housing and Construction and, if so, when?

ANSWER

I do not have the information available. I will get it as soon as possible and recommend to the Department that immediate action be taken.

590 Mr VALE to Mr TUXWORTH—

Can he advise how last night's allocation of \$4.7 million to the Australian Atomic Energy Commission will be spent in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

No, but I will be only too pleased to find out and advise him later this day.

591 Mr WITHNALL to Mr RYAN—

Is the honourable member aware that the supply and pressure of water in the Darwin Primary School is so poor that insufficient water is available to service lavatories leading to the probability of a health hazard being created? Will he say whether an urgent requisition has gone to the Department of Housing and Construction and, if so, when something can be done about it?

ANSWER

I was not aware that this situation existed and therefore an urgent requisition has not been put forward. However, with my colleague, the executive member for Education and Consumer Affairs, I will follow this problem up.

592 Mr VALE to Dr LETTS—

This question is asked on behalf of the member for Elsey. What is the cost of processing beef in Katherine, the average per beast, and how does this compare with the price to the producer?

ANSWER

I cannot give any precise information in relation to the Katherine processing costs but, if my memory serves me right, the Darwin abattoir is compelled by law to slaughter cattle on behalf of producers who take cattle there. I think that the rate the last time that they slaughtered cattle was something in the order of \$20 per head. This is approximately the same value the producer gets from a 450 pound cow. That is the full return that he gets these days.

593 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TAMBLING—

Is he aware of the signs that are presently polluting the landscape and apparently put up by the Darwin Reconstruction Commission? I refer to the little blue and white signs scattered throughout the municipality. Was the approval of the Corporation of the City of Darwin sought and, if not, are the signs to be removed and at whose expense?

ANSWER

I have noticed the signs which are displayed around the town. I am not aware of whether the Corporation's approval was sought. I am aware the corporation is co-operating with the Darwin Reconstruction Commission on the current clean-up campaign. I will endeavour to obtain a reply and bring the honourable member's opinions to the notice of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission management.

594 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TAMBLING—

Is it a fact that approximately 400 departmental residences have been repaired to a standard which would house families and keep them dry in the coming wet? If this is a fact, why have these homes not been released for habitation?

ANSWER

I am not acquainted with the numbers that the honourable member alluded to. I will discuss this matter with the management of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission and with the officers of the Accommodation Co-ordination Committee of which I am a member and where I have not seen any statistics of that proportion. I will certainly bring it to their attention and give a further answer to the honourable member.

595 Mr VALE to Mr KILGARIFF—

Can he advise when the stipendiary magistrate will be holding court hearings in remote areas of the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The Senior Magistrate and the Director of Law, in the last few weeks, have been preparing for a magistrate to sit in various isolated areas. At the moment, it is possible that some time in September courts will be held in various areas according to the necessity. At the present, they are working on a tentative itinerary for courts in such places as Nhulunbuy, Alyangula, Maningrida, Bathurst Island, Garden Point, Snake Bay, Hooker Creek, Warrabri, Papunya and Yuendumu. It is quite likely that, if courts are required in other parts of the Northern Territory, the magistrates will go to those areas. It would be difficult, under some circumstances, to have a magistrate go to an isolated area with very little warning.

596 Mrs LAWRIE to Miss ANDREW—

Having read the BUDGET Papers, she will be aware that there is no provision for the re-building or repair of the Nightcliff Primary School. This is a somewhat glaring omission. Was this surprising decision taken completely within the Department of Education in their castle in the T & G building? If not, with whom did they consult prior to making the recommendation? Did they consult with her or any community group representing the Nightcliff area or with the Nightcliff principal? They did not consult with me. How did they come to this rather alarming conclusion that Nightcliff Primary School was no longer needed?

ANSWER

Anticipating the honourable member for Nightcliff's concern about the lack of allocation for the re-building of Nightcliff Primary School, I have made inquiries in the Department. My advice is that, initially, this school was in the primary surge zone. Research was done and they decided that the department should look at the relocation of the school on the oval.

Mrs Lawrie: It is not in the primary surge line.

Miss ANDREW: This is my advice from the department. Currently, preparation of plans for a new school on the present site are under way. Before a brief can be prepared, a report is needed from the Darwin Reconstruction Commission on population trends in that area. Then, in consultation with the parents and people of Nightcliff, a decision will be made as to whether there will be a two tier or three tier system adopted for the Nightcliff area. There is still no report from Housing and Construction as to the use of the buildings there and transportables. However, as many transportables as possible will be put on site to cater for the needs of the Nightcliff children next year. These are due to arrive in Darwin in November. They will be placed so the children can use the transportables whilst the building of the new school is in progress.

597 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TAMBLING—

Twice or three times the question has been raised of the DRC publishing its agenda for forthcoming meetings. Has this been formally raised within the Commission, and if so, what was the result?

ANSWER

To the best of my knowledge, the matter has been discussed by the Commission and the agenda of the non-confidential or non-restricted items has been agreed to be made available to the media attending meetings of the Commission. I believe it is the chairman's policy to decide the priorities of agenda items and which items will be made available to the press. At the last couple of meetings, items that were classified on the confidential or restricted agenda were brought forward at the beginning of that meeting at the request of Darwin members and the meeting then made public. There is no policy to make the full agenda public.

598 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr KILGARIFF—

Can he advise me whether any unemployment benefits are being paid at present in Darwin?

ANSWER

I have looked at the matter but, unfortunately, I have not got the answer right at the moment. I will answer at the end of question time.

599 Mr KENTISH to Mr TAMBLING—

Can he name the authority who promised compensation for land holders in the Darwin area wishing to surrender leases?

ANSWER

I believe that the Minister for Northern Australia made a press statement in which he invited people to indicate if they wished to surrender their leases. In the second planning document of the Darwin Reconstruction Commission, the Minister for Urban and Regional Development, Mr Uren indicated the desirability of people to do this. Thus, the intention was indicated by two federal ministers.

600 Mr KENTISH to Mr TAMBLING—

Is it a fact that no moneys are available for this purpose?

ANSWER

In yesterday's debate on the Budget, it was indicated that in the vote for the Department of Urban and Regional Development, there was an indication of an allocation for the 1975-1976 year of \$2,000,000 for buying surrendered leases in the Darwin area. Information that has been supplied to this Assembly indicates that the funds of the previous year \$1,000,000 and the \$2,000,000 have already been fully committed on some 182 leases surrendered. The indications are that a total of 1,600 leases were indicated as being available for surrender.

601 Mr TUNGUTALUM to Miss ANDREW—

Can she advise me when will further electricity reticulation be made available for private landholders along and off Humpty Doo Road?

ANSWER

I am advised that estimates were done by the ESU. These were unsatisfactory and they have received a request from the Department of Northern Australia to update the estimate. The date of request was 29 July. No money has been received to put in electricity in this area to date. It is in the pipe-line. However, I can assure the honourable member for Tiwi that I will take this matter up at a later date.

602 Mr WITHNALL to Mr RYAN—

In view of the fact that there has been a vacancy in the membership of the Port Authority since April, why has the Administrator's Council delayed so long in filling the vacancy?

ANSWER

The reason for the delay is that there has only been one Administrator's Council meeting, caused by the absence of the Administrator and the absence at times of the Acting Administrator. There is an Administrator's Council meeting tomorrow.

603 Mr KENTISH to Dr LETTS—

Is it a fact that the price to producers for cattle at Katherine meatworks has dropped by nearly 2c per pound?

ANSWER

I cannot be absolutely certain of this answer but I have heard this morning that the price being offered to producers at Katherine meatworks has dropped by 2c a pound; on a 400 lb cow that would be \$8. I understand that the net profitability on many of the cattle moving to Katherine meatworks is around about \$6 to \$7 per head and a drop of the nature referred to in the question would make those movements quite unprofitable.

604 Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTS—

In the *Gazette* of 10 July 1975, under Department of Northern Australia and Queensland, there is an advertisement for a public service job as a Clerk Class 6. The duties are "either individually or as a member of a team to undertake the less complex activities associated with projects directed towards promoting departmental efficiency through the examination of office procedure and establishments." Would he elicit from the Minister for Northern Australia how this person can, from 2,000 miles away, examine and report on office procedures in the Department of Northern Australia?

ANSWER

I will endeavour to elicit that information from the Department, and I will add that stranger things have happened.

605 Mr KENTISH to Dr LETTS—

Is it a fact that it costs nearly \$50 per head to process a beast at the Katherine Meatworks?

ANSWER

A similar question was asked yesterday and I said that I did not know the information in relation to Katherine but I related it to the Darwin Meatworks where the published cost of killing is a known fact. I was probably somewhat misleading because the killing charge at the Darwin Meatworks was simply a charge for slaughtering and quartering of beasts whereas, at Katherine the operation goes into much greater degrees of processing, including boning out and packaging. I understand, subject to confirmation, that the charge for the full processing operation at the Katherine Meatworks is in the order of \$50 per beast.

606 Mr ROBERTSON to Mr RYAN—

On Wednesday of last week I asked a question in relation to whether or not there was a fire appliance on site in Mataranka. The honourable executive member answered in the affirmative. Is this in fact the case and, if it is not the case, upon what basis did he answer the question in the affirmative on Wednesday of last week?

ANSWER

It has since come to my notice that there is not a fire fighting appliance in Mataranka. The answer to the question last week was supplied by the Acting Chief Fire Officer who answered on the knowledge that when he was here once before, he assigned a unit to Mataranka. However, he did not check through his files and find out that the unit was in fact unserviceable and is in Katherine for repairs.

I would just like to read a report which is made monthly on the Mataranka Fire Service. It is quite pertinent to the question. This report was written by the Chief Fire Officer on 28 May 1975, and it is to the Secretary of the Mataranka Progress Association.

"As you know, the fire fighting equipment issued to your team has proved to have some degree of unserviceability at each monthly visit since March 1974. The pump has been in Katherine for some time for repair. The equipment has suffered from neglect for over a year, quite apart from the fact that no members of the community have come forward for training and instruction. There are dangers in this situation in that a false sense of security is produced, and also if a fire does occur valuable time is wasted in trying to bring defective equipment into use. We wish to remedy the situation and protect the area but we cannot without the support of the community. It is considered that we have to think of revoking the fire district and not replacing the fire fighting equipment. We do not wish to do this and are very prepared to consider any remedies that may be suggested by your association."

That is similar to each monthly report. I would suggest that the people in Mataranka pull their socks up and start taking an interest in their own affairs.

607 Mr WITHNALL to Mr TAMBLING—

Did the Darwin Reconstruction Commission refuse to use any temporary accommodation provided in the form of mini-homes, preferring to import demountable houses from interstate? If it has so refused, is the reason related to any supported defects in the mini-homes? If it is not, why is a local manufacturer not given some encouragement, if not preference?

ANSWER

I am unable to provide an answer but I will endeavour to provide one later this day.

608 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr KILGARRIFF—

In view of the apparent instruction to members of the Northern Territory Police restricting their carrying of sidearms, is it envisaged similar instructions will be given to members of the Commonwealth Police who constantly wear sidearms at the Darwin Airport?

ANSWER

I take notice of the question. It seems to be an anomaly that one section of the police force cannot carry arms but another can but I will look into the matter and advise him.

609 Mrs LAWRIE to Dr LETTIS—

In the *Gazette* of 10 July 1975, we see a position advertised for an Executive Officer Class 10 “to direct the work of the legislation research and policy section undertaking high level investigations, direct the preparation of ministerial and other high level correspondence, represent the department at high level conferences and meetings. The above position will be temporarily located in Brisbane for a period of 4 years”. Are the high level conference and meetings referred to meetings with the Majority Leader, as this deals with legislation specifically? If so, has he been asked to travel to Brisbane or is the relevant officer to travel to Darwin to consult with him? If the Majority Leader does intend travelling to Brisbane will the travel come out of the government vote or will it come from some vote of this Assembly?

ANSWER

I have had no indication at all from the Minister or the department as to what arrangements will be made to implement the sections of the Joint Parliamentary Committee’s Report which referred to the negotiations and the setting up of the committee to carry further the guidelines contained in that report. I have had no indication at all nor have I had any indication at all of the government’s attitude to the Joint Parliamentary Committee Report. I understand a question was asked in the House of Representatives about this yesterday and the answer was given by the Minister for Northern Australia that the matter had been referred to what was described as a “high level inter-departmental committee” which had been charged with the responsibility of preparing some Cabinet advice on the matter. I regard that as an unnecessary and very unsatisfactory method of dealing with this situation.

610 Mr WITHNALL to Mr KILGARIFF—

In view of my inability to find any reference in the Budget to continuing finance to complete the compensation scheme for Darwin cyclone victims, will he ascertain what amount of money will be available this year to complete the payment of compensation to persons who have claimed for damage to their premises or property?

ANSWER

I take note of the question and I will advise the honourable member later today.

611 Mr EVERINGHAM to Mr KILGARIFF—

In view of the consolidation of Commonwealth statutes which is presently issuing, is a consolidation of Northern Territory statutes in contemplation and, if so, when is it likely to happen?

ANSWER

The consolidation of Northern Territory statutes is a matter that is being reviewed by the Executive. At the moment, I have people looking at the matter and future action will be advised. A revision is being made of the various Northern Territory ordinances and, as soon as I have further information, I will give it to the member.

612 Mr DONDAS to Mr POLLOCK—

How much has the Warramunga Pabulu spent in 1973-74 and 1974-75 and how many houses have been completed?

ANSWER

I ask that the question be placed on notice.

ANSWER TO QUESTION

613 Dr LETTIS: The honourable member for Nightcliff asked me a question concerning the purchase of a block of land next to the Town Hall for \$115,000 for reconstruction purposes. The information that I have is that the Department of Services and Property acquired block 622 Mithcell Street on the basis of the government announcement released in February 1975 that it would purchase residential land from owners who wanted to sell their blocks as a result of Cyclone Tracy. The specific future use and priority of acquisition was not established prior to the acquisition. However, the lot is suitable for a number of purposes connected with the reconstruction of Darwin. The uses which could be accommodated on the lot range from housing to community amenities. An example of this is the proposal that the lot be developed in conjunction with the site of the old Town Hall as a community centre as suggested by the City Corporation.

Attached to that answer is a short recapitulation of the Minister’s statement in February 1975 which also covers the question which the honourable member for Arnhem was asking earlier of the Executive Member for Community Development. It is an extract from the Northern Territory News of 5 February 1975; “Government buys land. The Government is drawing up plans to buy back some residential land from owners who want to sell their blocks as a result of Cyclone Tracy. The Minister for the Northern Territory, Dr Patterson, said a number of people had indicated that they were prepared to voluntarily offer their titles back to the Government for some form of compensation. He said the Government would have to concentrate its immediate land purchases in areas most advantageous to the Reconstruction Commission rebuilding program, but cases of hardship in other areas would also be dealt with. Existing ordinance did not provide compensation for all the cases which had come forward for consideration. So that a uniform approach could be made, it had been recommended that, although the surrender of such land would be voluntary, the provision of the Lands Acquisition Act be adopted to pay out by agreement the site value of the land. It

was proposed that this land should be paid for at its unimproved value as at 23 December 1974. Applications to surrender the land under the scheme would be dealt with through the Departments of the Northern Territory and Services and Property in Darwin."

ANSWER TO QUESTION

- 614 Miss ANDREW: I am advised that the Education Department is aware of the deficiencies in the water supply at Darwin Primary School. Some of the pipes were ripped up during post cyclone clean-up and this matter was brought to the attention of the Department of Housing and Construction. A minor new works requisition was authorised to upgrade the sewerage at the school in 1974-75 program; it was raised, in fact, in August last year. In addition, a special urgent minor requisition was raised authorising Housing and Construction to replace ten taps on 29 July 1975. A contract has been let and work is expected to commence on Friday 22 August 1975 to upgrade the existing water main supplying the school from a 1 inch pipe to approximately a 2½ inch pipe. This should ensure that the supply of water is adequate and will overcome the health hazard that could exist as a result of the limitations of the supply.

ANSWER TO QUESTION

- 615 Miss ANDREW: The honourable member for Nightcliff asked who took the decision not to rebuild Nightcliff School. No decision has been taken not to rebuild it. Before any briefs could be prepared, certain structural investigations had to take place. It is conceded by the department that the school is too severely damaged for reparation and the decision was taken by the department to replace the damaged building with a new school. When it was thought that the surge zone restrictions would be rigidly enforced, the DRC planned to acquire land in the primary surge zone and establish a recreation area on that land which would have meant the present Nightcliff Oval site would be available for the construction of the new school. Had this become effective, the present school site would have eventually become available for housing and other purposes. However, the relaxation of the restrictions on building in surge areas meant the new school could be built on the present site.

When the latest population projections from the DRC are made available, the Education Department will immediately be able to make recommendations as to whether the present type of school will be provided or whether the 3 tier system will be provided. I am advised that before any decision is made the principal, parents and the Nightcliff community in general, will be contacted and their advice and ideas sought. Only when a decision is made can a brief be prepared. However, they are aiming to have the school included in the 1976-77 capital works program. In the meantime, the transportable units that I mentioned yesterday will be put into immediate operation for both Nightcliff and Rapid Creek children.

The second part of her question asked if I was consulted. The answer is no. I am advised four meetings were held with the Nightcliff principal, a representative group of parents, and a representative of the department including the Director, Mr Jim Gallagher.

ANSWER TO QUESTION

- 616 Mr KILGARIFF: The honourable member for Jingili asked whether unemployment benefits are being paid in Darwin. The answer is that unemployment benefits are paid in Darwin to those persons who qualify. I have been advised that at present there is one person being paid unemployment benefits in Darwin.

ANSWER TO QUESTION

- 617 Mr TAMBLING: The honourable member for Nightcliff asked me a question about a number of signs that have been erected around Darwin with regard to the cleanup campaign and whether the approval of the Darwin City Corporation was sought. The answer is that approval to use signs promoting the cleanup campaign was sought from the Town Clerk, Mr Tom Abbott, on 12 August 1975. His approval was given on the same day.

ANSWER TO QUESTION

- 618 Mr TAMBLING: The honourable member also asked me a question relating to sections 36 and 37 of the Darwin Reconstruction Act that state that officers shall be appointed to the DRC with the approval of the Public Service Board. The question was, "Has this approval been obtained for those officers appointed to date?" The answer provided is that the approval of the Public Service Board has not been obtained in the matter of officers appointed to date because it is not necessary for the board to approve such appointments.

ANSWER TO QUESTION

- 619 Mr TAMBLING: A further question was asked by the honourable member for Nightcliff. Dr Letts informed the Assembly that staff were not directed to sever previous business connections when they were engaged by the DRC and she asked which person or persons made person policy decision. The answer is that the commission has no policy on this matter.

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