

PART III

THE MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

*Minutes of Proceedings*

OF THE

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

No. 35

Wednesday 31 March 1976

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1. The Assembly met at 1000 hours, being the time fixed by Mr Speaker pursuant to the Resolution of 25 February 1976 - Mr Speaker MacFarlane took the Chair.

2. **DECLARATION OF CAUSE OF CALLING ASSEMBLY TOGETHER:** Mr Speaker made the following statement:

"This meeting of the Assembly has been summoned in accordance with the terms of the resolution of February 25 following the failure of the Acting Administrator to declare his assent to or to reserve for the Governor-General's pleasure, the Criminal Injuries (Compensation) Ordinance 1975.

In interpreting the resolution, I accepted delays of much more than the 48 hours proposed by the Honourable Member who sponsored the resolution but I cannot continue to disregard the Acting Administrator's failure to act on this Ordinance which was passed by the Assembly on December 4, 1975."

3. **FAILURE OF ACTING ADMINISTRATOR TO COMPLY WITH ACT:** Dr Letts, by leave, moved - That this Assembly express, in the strongest possible terms, its disapproval of the failure of the Acting Administrator to comply with the requirements of the Northern Territory (Administration) Act in respect of Ordinances made by this Assembly and presented to him for assent.

Dr Letts was granted leave to continue his remarks on the resumption of the debate.

Debate adjourned and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour.

4. **QUESTIONS:** Questions without notice were asked.
5. **ALLEGATIONS RELATING TO BY-ELECTION FOR THE ELECTORATE OF ALICE SPRINGS:** The following letter was tabled by Mr Speaker:

"Australian Electoral Office, Darwin NT

24th March 1976

No. B.8

Mr J.L.S. MacFARLANE

Speaker

The Legislative Assembly for the Northern Territory

P.O. Box 3721

DARWIN NT 5794

Dear Mr MacFarlane,

I refer to your letter dated 18th February 1976 relating to allegations at the recent by-election for the Electorate of Alice Springs.

It was alleged that Mr Manuell a candidate at that election entered a polling booth without the permission of the Presiding Officer and handled the ballot box.

The Chief Australian Electoral Officer has investigated the allegations and, while the investigation indicated that a minor technical offence did occur when Mr Manuell entered the booth without the permission of the Presiding Officer and spoke to the Country Liberal Party scrutineer, he apparently quit the booth within a reasonable time when requested to do so. The allegation of handling the ballot box is in conflict with the evidence of the Polling Officials.

The Chief Australian Electoral Officer has written to Mr Manuell drawing his attention to the requirements of the law but because of the nature of the offence, the Chief Australian Electoral Officer believes that no further action is warranted in this instance.

Yours sincerely,

Arthur HANGAN

Returning Officer for the Northern Territory".

6. ADDITIONAL REASONS FOR CALLING ASSEMBLY TOGETHER: Dr Letts, by leave, made a statement relating to further reasons for calling the Assembly together.
7. PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT: Dr Letts, by leave, tabled a statement made by the Prime Minister on 24 March 1976.

Dr Letts moved that -

1. the Statement be noted;
2. the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly re-affirms its support for the passage of appropriate Aboriginal land legislation during 1976 after adequate consultation with the people of the Territory;
3. in keeping with the principles and practices adopted within Australia's Federal system and in keeping with the policy of future statehood for the Northern Territory the Assembly should play its proper part in the making of such legislation as it

has done in the past, and as would be the case in the States; and

4. as the 1967 referendum concerning Australian Aborigines and the subsequent amendments to the Constitution made no change in the relationships between the Federal and Territory legislatures, there is no case now to deny the Assembly its proper role in making land legislation.

Dr Letts was granted leave to continue his remarks on the resumption of the debate.

Debate adjourned and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour.

8. DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE: Mr Speaker informed the Assembly that Mr Tambling had proposed that a definite matter of public importance be submitted to the Assembly for discussion, namely: "The effects of the Federal Government's financial policy on the present economy and future development of the Territory."

The proposal having received the necessary support - Mr Tambling addressed the Assembly.

Discussion ensued.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING: The sitting was suspended between 1147 and 1400 hours.

Discussion resumed.

Discussion concluded.

9. REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES BILL 1976 (Serial 87): The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question - That the Bill be now read a second time -

Debate adjourned and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour.

10. ALTERATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS: On the motion of Dr Letts the order of the day relating to the failure of the Acting Administrator to comply with the Act was called on.

11. FAILURE OF ACTING ADMINISTRATOR TO COMPLY WITH THE ACT: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Dr Letts, That this Assembly express, in the strongest possible terms, its disapproval of the failure of the Acting Administrator to comply with the requirements of the Northern Territory (Administration) Act in respect of Ordinances made by this Assembly and presented to him for assent.

Debate resumed.

Question put and passed.

12. ADJOURNMENT: Dr Letts moved - That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

No. 36

Thursday 1 April 1976

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1. The Assembly met at 1000 hours pursuant to adjournment - Mr Speaker MacFarlane took the Chair.
  2. QUESTIONS: Questions without notice were asked,
  3. DARWIN CYCLONE TRACY RELIEF TRUST FUND - MONTHLY REPORTS: Mr Everingham, by leave, tabled reports for the months of October, November and December 1975 and January 1976.
  4. SELECT COMMITTEE ON LANDLORD AND TENANT (CONTROL OF RENTS) ORDINANCE - STATEMENT: Mr Robertson, by leave, made a statement relating to the Select Committee's inquiries.
  5. PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE - STATEMENT: Mr Pollock, by leave, made a statement relating to Assembly publications.
  6. BEEF INDUSTRY AND KATHERINE MEATWORKS: Dr Letts, by leave, moved -

THAT this Assembly recognising -

- (a) that the effects of the general economic crisis in the Australian beef industry during the past year have been more severe in the Territory than in other Australian beef producing areas; and
- (b) the special interest and responsibility which the Commonwealth Government has in relation to the industry here,

requests the Government to take immediate steps to ensure that the Katherine Meatworks remains open to producers in 1976 and give sympathetic and favourable consideration to other forms of assistance which are necessary to keep the industry viable pending a return to more normal trading conditions.

Dr Letts was granted leave to continue his remarks on the resumption of the debate.

Debate adjourned and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour.

7. PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Dr LETTS, That -
  1. the Statement be noted;
  2. the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly re-affirms its support for the passage of appropriate Aboriginal land legislation during 1976 after adequate consultation with the people of the Territory;
  3. in keeping with the principles and practices adopted within Australia's Federal system and in keeping with the policy of

future statehood for the Northern Territory the Assembly should play its proper part in the making of such legislation as it has done in the past, and as would be the case in the States; and

4. as the 1967 referendum concerning Australian Aborigines and the subsequent amendments to the Constitution made no change in the relationships between the Federal and Territory legislatures, there is no case now to deny the Assembly its proper role in making land legislation.

Debate resumed.

SUSPENSION OF SITTINGS: The sitting was suspended between 1154 and 1400 hours.

Debate resumed.

Question put and passed.

8. ALTERATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS: On the motion of Dr Letts the order of the day relating to the Beef Industry in the Northern Territory was called on.
9. BEEF INDUSTRY AND KATHERINE MEATWORKS: The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Dr Letts, That this Assembly recognising -

- (a) that the effects of the general economic crisis in the Australian beef industry during the past year have been more severe in the Territory than in other Australian beef producing areas; and
- (b) the special interest and responsibility which the Commonwealth Government has in relation to the industry here,

requests the Government to take immediate steps to ensure that the Katherine Meatworks remains open to producers in 1976 and give sympathetic and favourable consideration to other forms of assistance which are necessary to keep the industry viable pending a return to more normal trading conditions.

Debate resumed.

Question put and passed.

10. SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT: Dr Letts moved - That the Assembly at its rising, adjourn until 1000 hours on 25 May 1976.

Question put and passed.

11. ADJOURNMENT: Mr Pollock moved - That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question put and passed.

And then the Assembly at 1730 hours adjourned until 1000 hours on Tuesday, 25 May 1976.

PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 1 April 1976.

Annual Reports:

Department of Education - Northern Territory Division 1975.

The following further paper was deemed to have been presented, pursuant to statute:

Determinations and Agreements:

Agreement between Administrator and Northern Territory Police Association dated 27/2/76.

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ATTENDANCE: All members attended the sitting.

FIRST LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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And then the Assembly at 1550 hours adjourned until tomorrow at 1000 hours.

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PAPERS: The following papers were deemed to have been presented on 31 March 1976, pursuant to statute:

Determinations and Agreements:

Agreement between Administrator and Police Commissioned Officers' Association, dated 25 February 1976.

Fire Brigades Arbitral Determination No. 4.

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ATTENDANCE: All members attended the sitting.

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