

## PART II

### THE QUESTION PAPER

Questions are printed in numerical order  
An index to questions appears at the end of Part II

FROM 28 NOVEMBER 1978

201 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is causing the delay in the signing of the lease agreement between V.B. Perkins and Company and the Northern Territory Port Authority, a matter which has now been in dispute for exactly 6 years?

FROM 20 NOVEMBER 1979

1139 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Bearing in mind that the price of vegetables in Alice Springs is sometimes double that in Adelaide, and that the so-called Alice Springs "farm area" is plagued by salt problems, will the minister advise what steps will be taken to provide a more suitable alternative area for the production of farm produce in the centre?

FROM 12 FEBRUARY 1980

1157 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he inform the House of the electricity needs of an uranium enrichment plant and the cost of establishment of such a plant?

1213 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. What were the amounts of the 3 loans made to the North Australian Baptist Homes Trust in relation to hostels in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs?
2. How much has been repaid?
3. If these properties are surrendered, will the loans be 'extinguished'?
4. Under what terms will the loans be 'extinguished'?

1214 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. What were the amounts of the 3 loans made to the Church of England, Carpentaria College Inc.?
2. How much was repaid?
3. What are the terms under which these loans were 'extinguished'?

1218 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In answer to a question asked on Tuesday 13.11.79 the minister said environmental inspectors can work after hours and on weekends to maintain surveillance over some of the illegal mining in the rural area.

How many man hours have been taken up with this work since this re-organisation, what areas have been under surveillance, at what time of day and how much illegal sand and gravel mining was found?

1221 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. When is the Mines Safety Control Act expected to commence?
2. When will regulations to this Act come into existence?

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 1 MAY 1980

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1225 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Why has the Survey Branch sole occupancy of a building on a residential block in Third Street, Katherine, when residential land is at a premium in the town?
2. Are there special circumstances, such as refusal by the Public Service Commissioner to pay adequate travelling allowance or camping allowance, which make spasmodic occupancy of this building essential?

FROM 19 FEBRUARY 1980

1267 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Has he attempted to persuade the government to base him in Alice Springs instead of Darwin?
2. If so, why is he still based in Darwin?
3. If not, will he do so?

1269 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. How many vehicles use the level crossing daily at the Larapinta Drive - Telegraph Terrace intersection in Alice Springs?
2. Is it true that a set of traffic lights will be installed at the intersection and crossing?
3. In the matter of arrangements being made for the standard gauge railway planning, what decision-making powers are held by -
  - (a) the NT government;
  - (b) the Alice Springs municipality; and
  - (c) the Australian National Railways Commission?
4. In the event of a dispute over the location of the railway, is it true that the Alice Springs municipality can be over-ruled by the A.N.R.?
5. Will the minister supply a list, including dates, names of participants and the agenda of meetings which have been held between the A.N.R. and his department during the past 2 years and, if not, why not?

1301 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Who is responsible for the maintenance of internal service roads in Aboriginal communities?
2. Who is responsible for the maintenance of main access roads to Aboriginal communities?
3. Is the planning of main access roads to Aboriginal communities and internal service roads undertaken as a correlated construction exercise?

4. Who is responsible for the construction and maintenance of access roads to Aboriginal outstations?
5. Does the government offer on-site technical assistance to Aboriginal communities in respect of road building?
6. Is there Aboriginal representation on the Rural Roads Board?
7. What safeguards exist to ensure the preservation of Aboriginal sacred sites which may be affected by road construction?

1303 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How many students graduated from all courses last year at Kormilda College and Yirara College respectively?
2. What proportion of last year's graduates from Kormilda College and Yirara College respectively are now -
  - (a) employed; and
  - (b) unemployed?

1304 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Considering that the minister advised the Ilpapa Association in November 1979 that arrangements for electricity supply were to proceed, when will the Association be provided with suitable electricity supply?

1305 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is it a fact that an organisation or incorporated body must first obtain the approval of the NT Department of Education in order to be eligible for a grant from the Schools Commission Innovations Committee and, if so, why?
2. What criteria are used by the Education Department in assessing an organisation's performance or goals in respect of approvals from the Schools Commission Innovations Committee?
3. Is it a fact that the Education Department has refused to approve the activities of the Yipirinya School in Alice Springs in conjunction with 2 applications for a grant from the Schools Commission Innovations Committee made in 1978 and 1979 and, if so, why?
4. Does an "independent school" within the terms of the Education Act require approval from the Education Department in order to be eligible for a grant from the Schools Commission Innovations Committee?
5. What is the government's policy on Aboriginal self-management in education?
6. Is it a fact that the Principal Education Adviser for the Alice Springs region recently informed the Yipirinya Council that the best solution for the Council is to become a part of the Education Department and, if so, why?
7. Does the minister plan to support other education proposals similar to the Yipirinya School?

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 1 MAY 1980

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FROM 22 APRIL 1980

1377 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the uranium mining booklet, produced by the NT government, been distributed to the public?

If so, to whom and in what numbers?

1380 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is it a fact that in October 1979 some 227 people appeared on more than 600 charges in the Alice Springs Court?

2. Is it a fact that some 90-95% of these charges were alcohol-related?

3. If so, what action does he propose to take to reduce the high incidence of alcohol-related crimes in the Territory?

4. Will the government undertake an analysis of the residential status/background and the educational and cultural background of the majority of offenders before the courts in the Territory in order to construct a profile of the typical offender and to make available such data to interested community organisations?

5. If not, why not?

1409 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has there yet been any settlement regarding the disputes concerning the Collia tin mine and what are the latest developments in this matter?

1410 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Did the minister approve NTEC's application for a gas exploration licence in the Bonaparte Gulf?

2. If so, what exploration results have so far been achieved?

1414 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. When will model by-laws be available for use by the Territory's 4 local government councils?

2. Is it a fact that the Local Government Act will require amendment if the model by-laws are to be implemented effectively by the 4 local government councils and, if so, what action has he taken, if any, to review the act and to facilitate the operation of the new by-laws?

1421 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What steps will the government take to protect NT producers of food-stuffs such as beef, poultry, eggs and agricultural and horticultural products against producers in other states?

1425 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What are the details of the feasibility study carried out for the proposed Northern Territory takeover of the federal government's share in the Ranger uranium mine?

1426 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. What pastoral properties have changed hands so far this financial year?
2. How many of these are owned by overseas interests?
3. How many pastoral properties owned by overseas interests are now shipping their cattle direct to overseas markets?

1427 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Did the Minister for Community Development explore the possibility of maintaining the fresh milk supply for Gove? If not, why not?
2. If the government did examine the milk supply situation, what was the outcome of its examination of the problem?

1429 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. When will the replacement for the Administrator, Mr England, be known?
2. Has the Northern Territory government forwarded any name or names for the position of Administrator?

1430 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How has the initial \$119,000 hospitality grant been spent this year?
2. Who were the VIP's, visiting officials and others entertained by the Northern Territory government via the hospitality fund?
3. What is the extra \$41,000 in the mini-budget needed for?
4. Does this mean that the hospitality fund has run dry and, if so, when?
5. How much of the hospitality allocation has been spent on -
  - (a) liquor; and
  - (b) food?
6. Who oversees the hospitality expenditure?
7. What is the hospitality estimate for the next 2 financial years?
8. When are the peak periods for hospitality expenditure?
9. How many restaurant bills have been paid for by the Northern Territory government so far this financial year out of the hospitality account and how much does this total?
10. How much has each minister spent on hospitality so far this financial year?

1433 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Why did the person, charged with setting up the hospitality course at the Central Australian Community College, resign?
2. What steps are being taken to find a replacement?
3. When is it anticipated the hospitality course will start?
4. Does the Northern Territory government feel there is any urgency for such a course to be started in the centre?

1434 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In respect of the Home Loans Scheme which came into operation on 1 October 1979 -

- (a) how many loans have been approved;
- (b) how many loans have been approved for applicants who were, at the time of application, tenants of the Northern Territory Commission;
- (c) how many loans have been approved in -
  - (i) Darwin;
  - (ii) Alice Springs;
  - (iii) Katherine;
  - (iv) Tennant Creek; and
  - (v) Nhulunbuy; and
- (d) how many loans have been approved for which the starting interest rate is -

(i) 4 %	(iv) 5.5 %	(vii) 8 %
(ii) 4.5 %	(v) 6 %	(viii) 9 %
(iii) 5 %	(vi) 7 %	(ix) 10 % ?

1435 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Did the Fisheries Division of the Department of Primary Production attempt to purchase lot 3430, Town of Darwin, and other land in the near vicinity, the subject of a lease formerly held by Mr Carl Atkinson at Doctors Gully; and, if so, why did the transaction not proceed?

1438 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is he aware that block 295, Condon Street, Katherine is zoned R8 for the erection of 6 flats with a UCV of \$4,680 and that the Katherine Council will not permit the building of flats because of its intention to rezone the block as R1 for normal residential use with a UCV of \$1,700?
2. Will he take action to resolve the anomaly?

1441 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Is the drilling section of the Mines Branch up to establishment? If not, why not?
2. Is it the policy of the Northern Territory government to use more contract drillers than used to be the case and, if so, why?

3. What will the new Warman drilling rig be used for and who will operate it?

1442 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Did the minister ever seek to reach an agreement with Mr Carl Atkinson, the owner of the Doctors Gully Fish Reserve, to purchase the reserve for his own personal use? If so, what price was offered?

1443 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Have any officers of the Territory Development Corporation an interest in any projects for which loans of the Territory Development Corporation have been given? If so, would the minister supply details?

1445 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Will he make representations to ensure that telegram and telex charges for goods ordered by these means and freight costs are not included in the calculation of sales tax on the goods?

1447 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many \$1,000 banquets have been held by the NT government so far this financial year?
2. For whom were these banquets held?
3. Where were they held and how many people attended each one?
4. How much has been paid out for airfares from the hospitality fund so far this financial year and for whom?
5. How many cartons of scotch whisky have been bought by the hospitality section so far this year?
6. What is the total restaurant bill charged to the hospitality account so far this year?
7. Who ran up these restaurant accounts?
8. Why was it necessary to appropriate an additional \$41,000 to the hospitality account in the mini budget?
9. What is the total liquor bill for the hospitality account so far this year?

FROM 29 APRIL 1980

1449 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Can he state whether any companies connected with Sir Condor Laucke have (a) obtained, or (b) sought any Territory Development Corporation loan moneys?
2. If so, what are (a) the full details; and (b) interest rates in each case?
3. Did the Territory Development Corporation reject an application for a loan or assistance from an international company wanting to manufacture solar appliances in Darwin and, if so, why?



4. If such an application was rejected, was the decision made by (a) Cabinet, (b) the Territory Development Corporation, or (c) a minister; and (d) if made by a minister, which minister?
5. What is (a) the name; and (b) the paid-up capital of each company which has obtained a Territory Development Corporation loan?
6. Does the Territory Development Corporation liaise with the Department of Primary Production when evaluating the viability of loan applications in the rural area; if not, why not; and if so, with whom?
7. Is there any duplication of expertise in the Territory Development Corporation and the Department of Primary Production and, if so, in what areas?
8. Does the Corporation seek recommendations from the Department of Primary Production on all or only on specific applications for loans?
9. How many (a) interestate; and (b) overseas companies have received Territory Development Corporation loans and what is (i) the name of the company, (ii) the details of the loan, and (iii) the benefits to the Territory in each case?
10. How many companies, granted Territory Development Corporation loans, have (a) been unable to proceed, (b) failed to take up all the loan money because of inability to meet the corporation's requirements, (c) closed their operations within 6 months; and (d) applied for further funding to carry on?
11. If any companies were granted further funds from the corporation (a) what sums; and (b) for what reasons were the additional funds provided?
12. What sums has the Territory Development Corporation spent on (a) hospitality, (b) entertainment; and (c) travel from its establishment until 16 April 1980; and (d) what sums is it expected to spend in those areas during the next financial year?
13. What sum has been paid to the Chairman of the Territory Development Corporation for travelling allowance since his appointment until 16 April 1980?
14. What sums have been spent by the Chairman of the corporation on (a) hospitality; and (b) entertainment from the date of his appointment until 16 April 1980?
15. Have any companies or members of companies which have received Territory Development Corporation loan moneys been charged with criminal offences or breaches of company law since receipt of such loan moneys?
16. Does the corporation take precautions to (a) ensure that loans are made for ventures which are likely to succeed; and (b) protect its equity in ventures in the event of (i) company collapse, (ii) police seizure, and (iii) other events which could endanger the viability of the ventures; and (c) have the precautions proved adequate?
17. Have any corporation officers been offered bribes by applicants for loans; and, if so, (a) how many such offers were made; and (b) what action was taken in each case to report the offers to the government?

1450 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In respect of the 12 months ending 31 March 1980 -

1. How many applications for priority allocation of housing in Darwin were received by the Northern Territory Housing Commission?
2. What were the sources of referral for priority allocation of housing in Darwin?
3. How many of the applications were (a) lone fathers; (b) lone mothers; and (c) couples with children?
4. What were the main reasons given by applicants for seeking priority allocation of housing?
5. How many of the applications for priority allocation of housing were (a) approved; (b) rejected; (c) deferred; and (d) still undecided?
6. What were the main reasons for rejecting applications for priority allocation of housing?

1474 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Which departments have a departmental or parliamentary liaison officer?

1493 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Has his attention been drawn to ultra low volume techniques for aerial spraying of insecticides?
2. Can he state whether the government has published advice that light breeze conditions may give better control of the spread of aerial sprays than the calm air conditions often applying about dawn, currently favoured by crop dusters and local authorities using herbicides?
3. What steps has his department taken to enforce the conditions for aerial spraying recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council, which has advised that herbicides are harmless if used as recommended?
4. Have breaches of these conditions been detected; if so, how?

1512 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What was the total cost to the Territory of proceedings commenced by the Attorney-General by way of prerogative writ in the High Court of Australia to challenge the Aboriginal Land Commissioner's findings on jurisdiction in the Utopia Aboriginal land claim case?
2. Why did the Attorney-General challenge the findings on jurisdiction by the Aboriginal Land Commissioner in the Utopia land claim?
3. What was the final outcome of this action by the Attorney-General in the High Court of Australia?
4. Does the NT government intend to oppose the Utopia Aboriginal land claim?

1513 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is Mr Ron Gould still employed as an organiser and co-ordinator of the so-called hospitality course at the Community College of Central Australia and, if not, why not?
2. If Mr Gould is no longer employed, who is now employed in the position he vacated?
3. Has the Community College Council endorsed a recommendation for the hospitality course to start in February 1980?
4. Why did the course not start in February 1980?
5. When will the (a) full-time units; and (b) part-time units of the course commence?
6. What are the names and qualifications of the staff employed (a) full-time; and (b) part-time to administer and teach in the hospitality courses?
7. What are the (a) titles; and (b) syllabuses of the units which come under the broad heading of the hospitality course; what accreditation has been gained for these units, and how many students will be admitted to the units?
8. How much money has been allocated this financial year for (a) staff; (b) equipment; and (c) consumables for the hospitality course?

1514 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Which company has the contract to transport schoolchildren in Alice Springs?
2. How many companies tendered for the job?
3. What were the tender prices submitted?
4. What is the cost per kilometre of transporting schoolchildren to school in (a) Alice Springs; and (b) Darwin?

1515 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I refer to his reply to a question asked on 13 February 1980 by the Member for Stuart concerning rehabilitation of the roadside and other areas through the hills north of Alice Springs, in which he said that his department had "spent in excess of \$100,000 on repairs to some of the areas that have been damaged".

1. Can he confirm the statement attributed to him in the Centralian Advocate, 27 March 1980, that "\$100,000 had been allocated to reclaim environmental degradation in the area"?
2. Has there been one or 2 allocations of \$100,000 for this work?
3. Does his department regard the words "reclaiming", "repairing", "regeneration" and "rehabilitation" as synonymous with the term "cleaning up after the contractor"?
4. Was the sum of \$73,384 expended on hire of a loader and dump truck for rehabilitation, reclamation, repair or regeneration?

5. Does his department normally allocate large sums of money to clean up after a contractor has completed a job; or is it normal practice for contractors to carry out such cleaning up work themselves and for the cost of this work to be taken into consideration when the tender is lodged?
6. Does further work need to be carried out to repair the damage caused by the road reconstruction; and, if so, what is (a) the nature of the work; (b) how much will it cost; and (c) when will it be completed?
7. Has work on rehabilitation and regeneration of the area been carried out?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

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1092 Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

- (a) What is the annual post-operative infection rate for the past 5 years for the Alice Springs hospital?
- (b) Are comparative figures available over the same period for the major hospitals in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney and, if so, what are they?

ANSWER

- (a) The overall post-operative infection rate at Alice Springs Hospital over the last 5 years has been 3.4%, 8.0%, 7.6%, 8.3% and 8.6% - the latter in 1978-79.

It should be appreciated that the post-operative infection rate clearly relates to the type of case so that the wound of a patient with a gangrenous appendix is more likely to be infected than one with an uninfected appendix.

- (b) Comparisons with other hospitals are unreliable but one series available from a teaching hospital in Sydney varies from 2.9% for completely clean cases to 14.9% for potentially infected cases and 25.4% for heavily contaminated cases. The figure for Darwin Hospital for September 1979 was 1.2%.

1183 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Why does the Motor Vehicle Registry no longer place on car registration stickers the date of expiry of registration of the car and the engine number of the car?

ANSWER

The printing of car details on registration labels was ceased in December 1978, as a major step in reducing waiting time for the public at the Motor Registry. Printing of these details would now require a separate typing process in addition to the existing computer system. This will lead to, once again, increased waiting time at the Motor Registry.

There is no legislative requirement for the printing of car details on the registration labels and, more importantly, the registration label is only indicative of registration and not proof of registration.

In order to print car details on the registration labels and at the same time maintain a reduced waiting time, the registration labels must be printed by the computer system which is an extremely costly method. It is used by the Canberra Motor Registry who have been unable to locate an ink which does not deteriorate once exposed to the elements of the weather.

1210 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Why has the Darwin rural area, including Berrimah, only been given \$80,000 for the re-gravelling of rural roads out of a total allocation of \$11.5 million for repairs and maintenance?

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

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### ANSWER

The \$11,500,000 referred to by the honourable member was in fact the original total amount for repairs and maintenance to all roads throughout the whole of the Territory as shown in Appropriation Act (No. 1) 1979-80. This figure has increased by \$680,000 to \$12,180,000 since Appropriation Act (No. 2) 1979-80 was assented to on 13 March 1980.

For the purpose of answering this question the Darwin rural area can be roughly defined as that area bounded by Berrimah to the north; Howard Springs and Humpty Doo to the east; Noonamah to the south; Elizabeth River to the west; and the area between Stuart Highway, Berry Springs and Darwin River Dam.

The repairs and maintenance allocation for this area amounts to \$651,000 for 1979-80 of which \$191,000 has been set aside for specific maintenance projects (including an \$80,000 item to re-gravel various roads in the rural subdivisions) and the remaining \$460,000 has been ear-marked for recurring maintenance such as grading road shoulders, slashing grass, patching as required, etc.

The NT government is committed to a program of improving roads throughout the Territory and has allocated large sums of money to achieve this goal.

As can be seen from the figures supplied above, the government is well aware of the road problems facing people living in the Darwin rural area and is working to bring all roads in the area up to a suitable standard.

1229 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What is the estimated operating costs of the small generators at the:

- (a) 15-mile experiment farm;
- (b) Katherine Gorge; and
- (c) 14-mile caves?

### ANSWER

- (a) The Department of Primary Production has advised me that the operating costs of the generator at the Katherine experimental farm is \$7,000.
- (b) The Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission has advised that the operating costs of the generators at Katherine Gorge is \$5,640.
- (c) The Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission has advised that the operating costs of the generator at Cutta Cutta caves is \$4,508.

These figures do not allow for depreciation of equipment.

1264 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

Could the Treasurer advise the Assembly as to the amount of the Treasurer's advance spent in the second quarter of the financial year 1979-80 and also the nature of that expenditure?

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

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### ANSWER

Against the advance to the treasurer of \$12,251,000 appropriated in the budget, amounts totalling \$170,000 had been advanced at 31 December 1979 to cover unforeseen departmental expenditure. These were payments by the Racing and Gaming Commission to the Darwin and Alice Springs Turf Clubs (\$160,000) and the replacement of a motor vehicle (\$9,098).

By 14 February (the date of introduction of the Second Appropriation Bill into the Legislative Assembly), a further \$102,000 had been advanced to the Department of Lands and Housing to reimburse the Housing Commission for certain assets taken over by the Commission from the Australian National Railways Commission.

These expenditures were included in the Appropriation Act (No. 2) 1979-80 and have thus ceased to be a charge against Treasurer's advance.

The second Appropriation Act also provided for the re-allocation of funds held in advance to the treasurer to offset the effects of inflation as it has impacted departmental expenditure budgets. This re-allocation was in excess of \$7 million and \$4.9 million was retained to meet further inflationary effects and other unforeseen expenditures in the remainder of the financial year.

### 1265 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What was the cost of the trip to the recent PATA conference in Manila?
2. How many overseas trips have been undertaken by ministers on official business in the calendar year 1979?
3. What has been the total cost of these trips?

### ANSWER

1. \$20,256.
2. Seven.
3. Total \$66,266.

### 1266 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many days travel allowance has been paid to the Minister for Education while in Darwin during the financial year 1978?
2. How many days travel allowance has been paid to the Minister for Education while in Darwin from 1 July 1979 to 31 December 1979?

### ANSWER

1. 151.
2. 71.

1268 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Can the Minister for Health tell the Assembly how many people travel interstate for radiotherapy and associated treatment annually?
2. What is the cost to the Northern Territory government to provide this service?
3. Has a study been undertaken to determine whether this situation is a cost effective one over a 5-year period?
4. Has this severe dislocation been assessed in relation to the overall management of the disease and to the mental attitude of the patient involved?

ANSWER

1. For the calendar years 1978 and 1979 the following numbers of patients were evacuated interstate for radiotherapy and associated treatments under the Northern Territory Department of Health Medical Evacuation Scheme:

1978: 56 (total evacuations for all purposes: 357); and  
1979: 11 (total evacuations for all purposes: 157).

For the same period the following number of patients received assistance from the Commonwealth Department of Health for specialist radiotherapy referral interstate under the Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS):

\*1978: number referred 5 (total referrals for all purposes: 31); and  
1979: Number referred 46 (Total referrals for all purposes: 462).

\* The IPTAAS scheme was introduced on 1.10.78.

2. Expenditure by the Northern Territory Department of Health was \$21,900 in 1978 and \$4,700 in 1979. These figures are approximations based on the average cost per patient during the 1978 and 1979 financial years.

The IPTAAS scheme is administered by the Commonwealth Department of Health. There is no cost to the Northern Territory. Approximate federal expenditure was \$2,000 in 1978 and \$18,000 in 1979 (figures supplied by the Commonwealth Department of Health).

3. The question of cost effectiveness is not in fact the main consideration but rather the population required before a radiotherapy unit becomes a viable option, particularly from the view of clinical efficiency and the range of treatment offered. The accepted ratio is of the order of 1:500,000 population so that the Territory does not yet have a sufficiently large population to support such a unit especially when it is considered that the people in and around Alice Springs would probably still wish to go to Adelaide for treatment.

However, insofar as costs are concerned the following will be of assistance:

INITIAL OUTLAY

Cobalt teletherapy unit	\$ 120,000
Treatment room and associated facilities	\$ 150,000
Ancillary equipment	\$ 20,000
TOTAL	\$ 290,000



## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

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### RECURRING EXPENSES (per annum)

Radiotherapist	\$ 40,000
2 radiographers	\$ 30,000
Nursing sister	\$ 15,000
Ward staff	\$ 20,000
Consumables	\$ 10,000
Quinquennial source replacement (per year)	\$ 6,000
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	\$ 121,000

The cost then would be about \$411,000 for the first year and \$121,000 per annum thereafter. This compares with a combined NT government/Commonwealth government cost of \$22,900 for 1978 and \$23,000 in 1979.

4. The dislocation referred to is one of the disadvantages of living in remote communities and applies equally to patients living in remote areas within states with radiotherapy units - an example would be Western Australia which has a private and a public unit both based in Perth.

On the positive side however a radiotherapy unit in a large centre inevitably is more skilled and efficient than a small unit serving a small number of people.

1270 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Has the Steering Committee on Tourism been formed to date as part of the government's promised program announced last August to further heritage conservation and tourist development in the Northern Territory?
2. If not, why not?
3. If so, can the minister detail the committee's achievements and undertakings to date?
4. What action has the committee taken to ensure optimum involvement by all levels of government, community groups and the tourist industry in the task of furthering heritage conservation and tourist development in the Territory?
5. How will all regions and locations within the Territory benefit from the committee's programs?

### ANSWER

No such committee named the "Steering Committee on Tourism" has been formed by the Northern Territory government.

The Northern Territory government has formed the "Northern Territory Heritage and Conservation Committee".

The Northern Territory Tourist Commission is represented on the Northern Territory Heritage and Conservation Committee.

I suggest you re-direct your question to the Minister for Community Development who is responsible for the Northern Territory Heritage and Conservation Committee.

1271 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Has the Department of Lands and Housing approved the lease application of the Ilpapa Association for a site adjacent to the Blatherskite Range, about 600 metres west of the Stuart Highway, Alice Springs?
2. If not, why not?
3. If so, why has the minister failed to inform either the Ilpapa Association or the Tangatjira Council of the decision?
4. Is the minister aware that in a letter dated 11 November 1979, the Minister for Transport and Works advised the Ilpapa Association that electricity connection to the site was to proceed?
5. Is it true that the minister subsequently advised NTEC not to proceed with the connection of electricity, claiming lack of support for the lease claim from the Departments of Health and Aboriginal Affairs?
6. Is the minister aware that the Central Regional Director of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, after receiving confirmation of support for the site proposal from the Secretary of Health, wrote to his department last month indicating his support for the site proposal?
7. In the light of documented support from the Departments of Health and Aboriginal Affairs, can the minister identify the obstructions currently facing the Ilpapa Association in the development of the site, and specifically in electricity connection?
8. Is it true that the minister visited Alice Springs last month?
9. Is it true that the minister stated in correspondence last September that he would offer alternative land to the Ilpapa Association on his next visit to Alice Springs?
10. If so, why did the minister fail to consult the Ilpapa Association on his last visit to Alice Springs?

ANSWER

1. No.
2. The application has been investigated in detail and the combination of a number of factors render the area unsuitable for residential purposes. The site adjoins the Ilpapa swamp and it is not possible to guarantee that the swamp and associated mosquito problem can be completely controlled at all times. Odours and smoke from the sewerage treatment lagoons and rubbish dump, although not a specific health hazard, further impair the residential amenity of the site. A study indicated that the cliff above the site is unstable and again, although preventative measures can be taken, this also mitigates against the value of the site for residential purposes.
3. The application was investigated in detail and the Ilpapa Association and Tangatjira Council were not notified until such time as alternative sites could be referred for their assessment. The applicants have now been requested to comment on the suitability of 2 alternative sites.
4. No. I am aware of such a letter dated 8 November 1979.

5. No. I did, however, give such advice to my colleagues the Chief Minister, Minister for Transport and Works and Minister for Mines and Energy on 26 September 1979 in light of advice available to me then.
6. Yes. However, the letter from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs reiterated past opposition and stated that because the Department of Health then appeared to favour the proposal, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs again supported the application.
7. The Department of Health by letter to the Regional Director, Department of Aboriginal Affairs, dated 21 January 1980, again raised the question of the mosquito problem. I assume this was because the proposal by Transport and Works to upgrade the effluent treatment plans had been modified. Other reasons are given in reply to Question 2. Electricity connection then becomes irrelevant.
8. Yes.
9. Yes.
10. Because the mosquito problem had been raised again and suitable alternative sites had not then been clearly identified.

1272 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Are members of the Northern Territory Police allowed to purchase their own hand-guns for official use and, if so, what regulations govern the ownership of these weapons?
2. Will the minister supply all the instructions and regulations governing the carrying and use of firearms by Northern Territory Police?
3. If not, why not?

ANSWER

1. Members of the Northern Territory Police Force may be granted pistol licences in connection with police duties, provided that -
  - (a) such pistols shall be of a calibre and type approved by the Commissioner;
  - (b) in the case of non-concealable pistols, they shall be carried on duty in a holster of similar colour, design, and the general dimensions as the current service issue pistol holsters; and
  - (c) privately owned pistols shall be carried and used by members in compliance with all instructions applicable to the carriage and use on duty of service issue pistols.Area commanders are responsible for controlling the issue and carriage of firearms according to the nature of standing commitments, or special contingencies, e.g. payroll escorts, VIP escorts, etc.

2. Standing Orders: No. 17 ARMS - USE OF

Use of Firearms by Police

- (i) There are 2 distinct purposes for which the Police are supplied with firearms, viz: -

- (a) To place them on an equal footing with armed criminal malefactors, so that they may be afforded an opportunity of defending their lives against murderous attacks; and
- (b) To assist them to prevent the escape of a felon who is fleeing from justice and who cannot by any other means be arrested.

According to the law, a felon is any person who has committed an offence punishable by death or by penal servitude for any term.

- (ii) The use of firearms by the Police is a matter of the utmost importance, and demands an intimate knowledge of the law as well as the exercise of the greatest care and caution at all times.

The law jealously guards human life, and will not sanction the taking of it except in cases of extreme necessity.

#### Self-Defence

- (iii) The law in regard to self-defence is very simple. It allows to every individual, whether policeman or civilian, the right of defending his life against wrongful attack by another. If by a wrongful attack the life of a constable is placed in immediate danger, he may lawfully use firearms against the person so attacking him, and this right exists at all times and under all circumstances, whether he is in the active execution of his duty as a constable or not. To justify the use of a firearm in self-defence, the threatened danger must be real and impending, not doubtful or remote. Difficulty or doubt as to whether the circumstances of any particular case warrant the conclusion that a constable's life is actually in danger which cannot have been averted without resorting to the use of a firearm is, however, not likely to arise, and where it is clear that such danger is actually present, and there are no other means at hand of defending his life, a constable need have no fear but that the law will uphold him should a wrong-doer be unavoidably killed. It should always be remembered that a person is not entitled to use any more force than is necessary to repel the danger present.

#### Preventing the escape of a felon

- (iv) When a felony has been committed, the law requires that every constable shall use every lawful means within his power to bring about arrest of the felon at the earliest possible moment.

If the felon is running away to avoid arrest, and there appears to be no other way of preventing his escape, he may be lawfully fired upon, and should his death ensue in consequence, a constable need have no fear but that the law will uphold and protect him. It should be borne in mind, however, that before firing upon a person who is running away to avoid arrest, a constable must be very sure of the following conditions: -

- (a) that the person fleeing has actually committed a felony and is running away to escape arrest;

- (b) that there are no other means at hand to effect his arrest, and that if he is not fired upon he will escape.

Should any doubt exist in a constable's mind with regard to either of these 2 points he must not use his firearm, for it is better that any number of guilty men should escape than that the life of one innocent person should be sacrificed. If a constable holds a proper warrant for the arrest of a person for a felony, or knows such a warrant exists, and that person, knowing the intention to arrest for that felony, runs, and is making good his escape, he may be lawfully fired upon, provided he cannot otherwise be taken, because in this case there is knowledge of the felony having been committed, and the points then to be considered are: -

- (a) Is the person running the very individual named or described in the warrant, and is he running away to avoid arrest?
- (b) Is there any other possible way of preventing his escape?

If the constable is certain that the man running is the person for whose arrest the warrant was issued, and that, knowing the intention to arrest, the offender is endeavouring to avoid same, and there is no other way of preventing his escape, then not only is a constable justified in using his firearm, but it becomes his duty, when all other means have failed to do so. If there is no warrant in existence for the arrest of the person running away, then a constable must have actual knowledge that a felony has been committed, as well as the conditions above-mentioned before he is justified in using his firearm. It is not sufficient that a constable has reason to suspect that a felony has been committed, as mere suspicion can never justify the taking of human life. For this reason it is not lawful to fire upon a person who is running away with goods, even although he cannot be otherwise arrested, unless it is known to the constable that the person has feloniously taken or received such goods. Even though it afterwards transpired that such person had, in fact, so committed a felony the firing would not be justified if done without knowledge of it.

Under no circumstances is the use of a firearm justified merely to prevent the escape of a person in civil cases, breaches of the peace, or any other misdemeanour short of actual felony. The common law offence of riot is a misdemeanour as are also all common assaults, riotous conduct, and all breaches of the Police Offences Ordinance, wife or child desertion, or disobeying Orders of Court for the support of same, as well as numerous other offences which frequently come under the notice of the Police, and with which every constable should endeavour to so familiarize himself as to be able to at once distinguish them from felonies. Further, the use of a firearm is not justified although the constable knows the person running away has committed a felony, and is running away to evade arrest, unless it appears there are no other means of preventing his escape. He must use his best judgement as to the particular period when it becomes necessary for him to fire, which will depend entirely upon the circumstances in each case. He should not fire when -

- (a) he is better mounted than or can outrun the offender;
- (b) assistance is likely to be obtained before the offender can effect escape;
- (c) there are other reasonable grounds for supposing the arrest can be accomplished in that particular pursuit without resorting to the use of firearms.

A constable is, however, not to let a felon, or a person for whose arrest for a felony a warrant has been issued, escape because he has reason to think or believe he can find him at some future time. His duty is to arrest him there and then and to use all lawful means in order to do so.

- (v) The use of firearms by police in crowded thoroughfares merely to prevent the escape of a felon is not generally advisable on account of the inevitable danger to which innocent persons would thereby be subjected. This is quite apart from the legal aspect of the matter, which might be held to be that the presence of numerous persons in the street through which the fugitive must pass would constitute a good reason for supposing he would be intercepted and arrest brought about without the use of firearms.

#### Prisoners escaping from prisons

- (vi) A prisoner who escapes from lawful custody in any prison or police prison, or from the lawful custody of the prison authorities anywhere outside the prison, becomes a felon by virtue of the Prisons Ordinance and the foregoing instructions apply regarding the use of firearms in effecting his re-arrest.

#### Prisoners escaping from cells at police station

- (vii) Cells at police stations are not prisons or police prisons (unless gazetted as such) and an escape from them is a misdemeanour and places the escapee in exactly the same position with respect to his liability to re-arrest as he was prior to his original arrest. If his original offence is a misdemeanour, he remains a misdemeanant, and if it is a felony, he is still a felon. A constable, then, who is endeavouring to arrest such a person could, if certain of the man's identity and that the offence he committed is a felony, use his firearm providing all other means of retaking the offender failed, but if in doubt upon any of these points, or if there is reason to believe the escape can be otherwise prevented, then the constable must not fire upon the fugitive.

#### Escaping from member's custody

This instruction also applies where a prisoner escapes from the custody of a member at any time between the time of arrest and the time of his being lodged in a prison or police prison.

- (viii) A constable will not discharge his firearm except in the execution of his duty, or if ordered to do so by a person in authority over him, and whenever he has occasion to do so, except when so ordered, he must submit a report setting out the circumstances for the information of the Commissioner of Police.

In cases of riot, unlawful assembly, etc., where police are called upon by magistrates to act as an armed body, they will obey the orders of the magistrates with whom the responsibility will rest.

Safety precautions

(ix) Automatic pistols should be carried without a cartridge in the barrel, 7 cartridges in the magazine, the safety catch at "safe" and the pistol uncocked. Frequent examinations should be made of the weapons to ensure that the whole mechanism is in proper working order, particularly the safety catch. Anything defective should be reported immediately.

\*(x) (i) Members who may have occasion to possess a firearm prior to boarding commercial aircraft are instructed that such firearm is to be unloaded and must be either placed in normal passenger baggage and stowed in the hold of the aircraft, or, alternatively, be handed in for stowage separately in the diplomatic locker security cupboard where it is available.

(ii) Ammunition is to be packed securely and separately within the baggage.

\* Amendment No. S.8/75. Australia Police Gazette page 148, 16 October 1975.

3. No applicable.

1273 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Why is Palmdale Insurance not deregistered as a writer of workers compensation insurance in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The power to revoke the approval of an insurer under the Workmen's Compensation Act rests with the Commissioner of Insurers.

The commissioner can exercise that power only in specified circumstances where the insurer concerned is shown to have acted illegally, or where the insurer itself requests revocation action.

The commissioner has informed me that in the case of Palmdale Insurance Limited he is aware of no illegality. Nor has he been approached by the company seeking revocation.

Palmdale is unable to write new workmen's compensation cover, or renew existing policies as they fall due, because of a current direction made by the Commonwealth Treasurer under the Insurance Act.

1297 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What are the guidelines followed in assessing the credentials of a company wishing to sell workers compensation policies within the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The criteria used by the Northern Territory Commissioner of Insurers in the assessment of applicants for approved insurer status under the Workmen's Compensation Act are set out in section 17J of the act.

Broadly speaking these include the need for a local office, a locally resident manager with delegated powers to conclude business here, and an investment intention. The first 2 matters are questions of fact which are established by satisfactory evidence. The investment intention is subject to some discretion. The present guideline for a satisfactory level of direct investment to be ascertained in the Territory is a third of technical reserves generated by Territory business.

As a prerequisite to the initiation of the above process the applicant must be an authorised insurer under the Commonwealth Insurance Act. Retention of such authorisation involves satisfying the Insurance Commissioner of the Commonwealth on a range of matters including a specific minimum solvency level.

1298 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Will the minister provide the House with more details about the type of aircraft, particularly light aircraft, to be used by the new Northern Territory airline?
2. Is he aware that people of Western Queensland rejected proposals to replace the domestic carriers with a new service using smaller planes likely to be used in the Northern Territory?
3. What steps is the government taking to ensure that air travellers in the Northern Territory do not receive an inferior service in terms of in-flight service and facilities under the new airline?

ANSWER

The basis of our agreement with East West is that any variations in the quality of service are subject to the approval of the minister. The aircraft proposed as a replacement for the DC3's and Herons operated by Connair has not finally been decided but it is likely to be a modern prop-jet aircraft such as the Metro Liner, at least on some of the routes. While the people in Western Queensland were not happy about the Metro Liner as a substitute for the F27, I consider that it would be highly acceptable as a substitute for DC3's and Herons. There is no proposal to downgrade any F27 services in the Northern Territory - rather the proposal is to upgrade them to F28 or equivalent by mid-1981. Some Metro flights could however be used as extra flights to provide better service to some towns.

There is no proposal to downgrade inflight service and facilities under the new airline. Any proposed downgrading would be subject to the approval of the minister. In referring to F27 services in the Northern Territory, I would exclude the use of the former F27 aircraft which operated irregularly between Alice Springs and Ayers Rock. The airline has withdrawn this particular aircraft and services will continue with Herons and DC3 aircraft, and probably Metro Liners, until later this year when more suitable F27 aircraft will be available. Together with other F27 routes the Alice Springs/Ayers Rock route will be upgraded to F28 by mid-1981.



1299 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Will he advise what facilities are provided at Berrimah Gaol for female prisoners in terms of -
  - (a) sport and recreation;
  - (b) work areas and work undertaken;
  - (c) work release programs; and
  - (d) further education?
2. Will he further advise in what way these facilities differ, if any, from those available to male prisoners?

ANSWER

Facilities provided at Darwin Prison for female prisoners:

1. (a) Sport and Recreation

Basketball - volley ball - chess and assorted table games - library - television - radio - feature films - personal cassettes. Tuition in guitar - leather work - sewing/embroidery.

(b) Work Areas

Female section. Medical section.

Work Undertaken

Cleaning of female section and medical rooms. Prison sewing requirements. Light laundry as all heavy laundry is carried out by main prison laundry complex. Limited flower garden.

(c) Work Release

There is no provision for work release for prisoners under the existing ordinance.

(d) Further Education

External correspondence courses and tuition by education officers. Subject to availability of instructors, there will be courses in typing, shorthand writing. Also proposed for future programs will be physical education - deportment - hair and beauty care - domestic science.

2. Difference of Facilities available to Male Prisoners

Male prisoners play darts - touch football. Undertake trade courses in mechanics - carpentry - metal work - vehicle maintenance - boiler house ticket training - catering courses - lawn keeping. Males are also eligible for transfer to Prison Farm, Gunn Point Reserve.

1300 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Has he received a letter dated 22 October 1979 from the Alice Springs Todd Traders Association regarding problems associated with unsuitable parking facilities and service lanes?
2. If so, has he considered the questions raised in this letter, and replied to the association?

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

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3. What action does he propose to take to resolve the lack of adequate parking facilities and service lanes in Alice Springs?

### ANSWER

1. Yes.
2. As my reply to the Todd Traders Association, dated 21 December 1979, indicated, the question of town development is one for my colleague the Minister for Lands and Housing.
3. I understand that the minister has been in contact with the association over these matters.

### 1302 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. What is the NT government's policy regarding the concept of Aboriginal communities employing their own adult educators?
2. What is the NT government's policy regarding Aboriginal communities assessing the performance of adult educators within their own communities?
3. What priority will Aboriginal vocational training receive in the 1980-81 NT Education budget?

### ANSWER

1. The government provides, through the Department of Education, for the employment of adult educators in Aboriginal communities to meet, wherever possible, the adult education needs of those communities. The adult educator is part of a carefully integrated team which is responsible to the principal of the school, who, in turn, is charged by the government with the overall responsibility for the provision of education services in a particular community. He/she is closely involved with professional advisors and curriculum officers based in the TAFE branch of the department.

Rather than have Aboriginal communities employing their own adult educators, it is a policy of my department to provide for a screening of adult educators by the council or other similar responsible body in the community before they take up their appointment. This process has the advantage of involving the community in the selection, whilst ensuring that the adult educator is part of the team and that he/she has full access to departmental resources.

2. The nature of an adult educator's role requires him/her to work closely with the community in general, and the council in particular. It is the policy of the Department of Education that new appointees meet with the council before taking up an appointment in an Aboriginal community. The government accepts the right of the council to have a significant influence over the adult education programs to be offered in an Aboriginal community, and that the adult educator has a responsibility together with the school principal to respond to the education needs identified in, or expressed by, the community as a whole.
3. It is neither possible nor appropriate at this point in time to speculate about the priority to be given to any particular education program in the 1980-81 budget. Nevertheless, in order to improve the Aboriginal vocational training program the department has planned for:

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

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- the recruitment of 6 additional technical teachers of whom 4 will be used in Aboriginal communities to service their trade training needs; and
- the increased use of visiting lecturers and local tradesmen on a part-time basis to conduct specialist courses in Aboriginal communities.

In addition to on-site training, the TAFE branch of the department will encourage Aboriginal students to attend vocational courses at the Darwin Community College, Community College of Central Australia and at the Katherine Rural College.

1326 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What was the amount of money received from the sale of 7 drums of tin concentrate sent about August 1979 from Mt Wells Battery to ATS Newcastle, and how much was credited to the Department of Mines and Energy?

ANSWER

The amount of money received from the sale of 7 drums of tin concentrate from the Associated Tin Smelters was \$31,189.55. All this money was credited to the Department of Mines and Energy and deposited into NT revenue.

1351 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. What research is being done into cattle reproduction in the NT?
2. What is the staffing and future plans for using the Berrimah Nutrition Laboratory?
3. How many cattle were turned-off from Willeroo last year?

ANSWER

1. The major current research project is to evaluate the effects of commercial weaning practices on cattle reproduction.
2. Pending the appointment of a permanent nutrition officer, the laboratory facilities are being used by field staff involved in several research projects.
3. I refer the honourable member to his recent discussion with Mr McKerrow of my office.

1352 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

On what date was the Cabinet decision made to open the cafeteria in the Chan Building?

ANSWER

Cabinet on 9 June 1978 endorsed the renovation and furnishing of the ground floor of the Chan Building (Block 8) to provide inter alia for a public cafeteria.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

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1378 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Following the government's requests to the Prime Minister and the Minister for National Development has the Territory received increased allocations of avgas and diesel fuel for this year?

If so, by how much have the allocations been increased?

ANSWER

The availability of avgas and diesel fuel to users in the Northern Territory has been discussed with the National Petroleum Advisory Committee but it has not been necessary to increase specific allocations because the oil companies have been able to arrange for adequate supplies of these fuels to be available.

Aviation gasoline and diesoline are supplied without restriction.

The National Petroleum Advisory Committee is keeping the situation under review and should any shortage occur or be anticipated, appropriate action will be taken.

1379 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Did he assure the owners of the Vic Snack bar that the government cafeteria in the Chan Building would not go ahead?

ANSWER

No.

1381 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Has the Department of Lands and Housing approved the lease application of the Mbutjara Association, South Terrace, Alice Springs, made in March last year and, if not, why not?
2. If so, can he ensure that the Mbutjara Association and the Tangatjira Council of Alice Springs are advised immediately of the decision?

ANSWER

1. The minister approves issue of the lease, not the department.
2. Regarding the application by the Mbutjara Association for land on South Terrace, Alice Springs, the Commonwealth has been approached to ascertain if they are prepared to fund the purchase of this land. A formal response from the Commonwealth is expected in the near future.

1382 Mr PERKINS to TREASURER

1. Was \$105,000 allocated for cycling facilities in Alice Springs in the 1979-80 Territory budget?
2. Is he aware that a senior planning officer, last month, informed the Alice Springs Cycle Track Research Committee in writing, that a cash flow from this amount cannot be made until 30 June 1980?
3. If so, why is it that funds allocated in the 1979-80 budget cannot be drawn upon until the following financial year?

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

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### ANSWER

1. The project, at an estimated cost of \$105,000, formed a "Proposed New Work" in the Capital Works Program 1979-80. Tenders were to be called in May 1980 and, because of this late tender target date, no cash was allocated against the project in the 1979-80 budget.
2. Yes. The senior planning officer was in fact an officer of the Department of Lands and Housing who has been in liaison with the committee for some time.
3. As set down in 1. above, funds were not allocated in the 1979-80 budget against the project.

### 1411 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. When did the minister last consult the council of the Community College of Central Australia in regard to the use of the Sportarama Building in Priest Street as an educational facility?
2. Is the minister aware that the Community College of Central Australia's projection for use of the Priest Street complex comprises 18 pre-employment apprenticeship and training programs?
3. Considering that the 1980 term in a number of courses at the college has already begun, when will the minister resume negotiations with the college council on the use of the Priest Street complex as an educational facility?

### ANSWER

1. Officers of the Education Department have been in constant contact with the Community College of Central Australia during the period of negotiations for the acquisition of the Sportarama Building in Priest Street. The actual transfer of the building to the department is expected to be finalised next month (April).

During the week, 25-29 February 1980, a senior officer of the department, together with an architect from the Department of Transport and Works, visited Alice Springs to discuss with college officers their particular requirements as regards modification to the building to suit their purposes.

2. The building was acquired for the college to enable it to conduct a range of courses including trade and apprenticeship training, pre-apprenticeship courses, Aboriginal vocational training, unemployed youth programs and pre-employment courses for Yarrara College students.
3. The department aims to complete the necessary modification and renovation work to the building in time for the start of the third term, 1980.

### 1412 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What residential alcohol rehabilitation facilities and programs are currently available in the NT?
2. With the exception of hospitals, what detoxification facilities are currently available in the NT?
3. With the exception of hospitals, what overnight shelters or half-way houses are currently available in the NT for persons with alcohol problems?

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

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4. What alcohol education programs are currently available in the NT?
5. Is the government currently implementing alcohol education programs in Territory high schools?
6. What funds have been allocated this financial year by the government for alcohol rehabilitation programs throughout the Territory?
7. Have funds been allocated this financial year for alcohol education programs and, if so, how much?

### ANSWER

1. Residential alcohol rehabilitation facilities and programs are currently available in Darwin, Alice Springs and Katherine.

In Darwin, the Foundation of Rehabilitation with Aboriginal Alcohol Related Difficulties (FORWAARD) operates a residential hostel which admits both Aborigines and non-Aborigines.

The Salvation Army also operates a residential facility known as the "Sunrise Centre".

In Alice Springs, the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress operates an alcohol rehabilitation farm.

The Kalano Community Association in Katherine operates Kalano Farm which is designed for Aborigines.

2. Apart from hospitals, there are no detoxification facilities available.
3. Overnight shelters are available in Darwin and Katherine. In Darwin, the Salvation Army and the St Vincent de Paul Society provide shelters and in Katherine the Regional Council operates the Giles Street shelter.

There are no half-way houses, as such, in the Northern Territory.

4. Apart from the Department of Health which provides health education programs including alcohol education, for a wide range of community groups throughout the Northern Territory, private organisations provide alcohol education programs in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs.

Darwin and District Alcohol and Drug Dependence Foundation at "Amity House", Darwin, conducts drink driver courses which are educational in nature.

The Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, Alice Springs and the Kalano Association, Katherine, offer education programs as part of their service.

5. The Health Education Branch of the Department of Health acts as a resource in terms of both personnel and material, to health education programs in schools, particularly where these programs involve alcohol.
6. The Darwin Hospital in-patient treatment program includes education.

The Department of Health has provided \$14,000 to the Salvation Army Service Centre through the Grants-in-Aid Scheme.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

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7. The Department of Health through its Grants-in-Aid Scheme has provided \$64,000 to the Darwin and District Alcohol and Drug Dependence Foundation.

1413 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Has the minister received any complaints about the running of the Alice Springs Women's Centre, apart from those allegations relayed by the Member for Stuart?
2. Has the minister visited the Alice Springs Women's Centre recently and consulted with the Women's Centre Collective regarding these complaints?
3. Will the minister confirm or deny the report in the Centralian Advocate of 7 February 1980 concerning allegations about the Alice Springs Women's Centre?

ANSWER

1. Yes.
2. Yes.
3. No.

1415 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is he aware that children attending schools in some outback areas of Central Australia often travel to school in open trucks and, if so, will he undertake to have this matter investigated with a view to providing more suitable means of transport for school children?

ANSWER

The Department of Education is unaware of any situation where children are transported officially to school in open trucks.

By far the majority of outback children attending local schools live within 1.6 km (1 mile) radius of the school and as such are not entitled to government funded transport to and from school.

Where children reside further than 1.6 km from their local school, as is the case at Mt Ebenezer and Utopia, the department provides bus transport.

1416 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Will he advise which Territory organisations were invited to attend the seminar on alcohol abuse held in Darwin on 15 and 16 February 1980?
2. Which Territory organisations actually attended this seminar?
3. Which members of the Legislative Assembly were invited to attend this seminar and actually attended?
4. If members of the Legislative Assembly were not invited to attend, why not?
5. What were the aims and purpose of this seminar?

6. Will he provide copies to members of the report and recommendations arising from this seminar?
7. Does the government propose to establish a NT Alcohol Authority and, if so, what would be the aims and functions of such an authority?

ANSWER

1. Invitations to attend the seminar were sent to the following Territory organisations:

Government Organisations

Department of Aboriginal Affairs  
Department of Education  
Department of Community Development  
Department of Law  
Northern Territory Police  
Liquor Commission  
Department of Social Security  
Department of the Chief Minister  
Department of Health  
Office of the Public Service Commissioner  
Municipality of Katherine  
Municipality of Alice Springs  
Municipality of Tennant Creek  
Corporation of the City of Darwin  
Nhulunbuy Town Board

Private Organisations

Central Australian Aboriginal Congress  
NT Council of Social Service  
NT Trades and Labour Council  
Darwin Chamber of Commerce  
Foundation of Rehabilitation with Aboriginal Alcohol Related Difficulties  
Darwin and District Alcohol and Drug Dependence Foundation  
The Salvation Army, Darwin  
Kalano Association, Katherine  
The Ministers' Fraternal, Darwin  
St Vincent de Paul Society  
The National Aboriginal Conference  
Resource and Settlement Centre, Darwin

A general invitation to attend was also issued to everyone interested by way of printed advertisements and radio announcements.

2. The following is a list of those organisations that actually attended the conference.

Government Organisations

Department of Health  
Department of Education  
Department of Community Development  
Department of Law  
Department of the Chief Minister  
Northern Territory Police  
Liquor Commission  
Corporation of the City of Darwin  
Municipality of Tennant Creek



Municipality of Katherine  
Nhulunbuy Town Board

Private Organisations

NT Trade and Labour Council  
Darwin and District Alcohol and Drug Dependence Foundation  
Banyan House  
St Vincent de Paul, Darwin  
Salvation Army, Darwin  
Uniting Church, Darwin  
Uniting Church, Alice Springs  
Foundation of Rehabilitation with Aboriginal Alcohol Related  
Difficulties  
Kalano Association, Katherine  
Central Australian Aboriginal Congress  
NT Council of Social Service, Darwin

3. The following members of the Legislative Assembly were invited to attend.

The Honourable Ian Tuxworth, Minister for Health  
The Honourable Nick Dondas, Minister for Community Development  
Mrs P.F. O'Neill, MLA, Member for Fannie Bay

Mr Dondas was unable to attend.

4. A general invitation to interested persons was issued (see above). Specific invitations were issued to those members with a special interest.
5. The aim of the conference was to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas on the question of alcohol use and abuse in the Northern Territory and to draw up guidelines for the development of future policies.
6. Yes, copies of the report and recommendations arising from the conference will be provided to members.
7. The government has agreed to the establishment of an Alcohol Authority in the Northern Territory; this is planned to occur in stages; the initial stage being a co-ordinating cell within the Northern Territory Department of Health. A Steering Committee has been established to guide its formation. The aims and functions of this authority have yet to be developed; broadly speaking, however, the overall aim of the authority will be to achieve responsible attitudes to alcohol throughout the Northern Territory and the lessening of the alcohol problem.

1417 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. How many people have sought and have been provided with assistance under the Darwin Hospital Alcohol Rehabilitation Program since its inception?
2. How many people, if any, have been denied treatment under the 2 week program at the Darwin Hospital due to limited resources and personnel?

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### ANSWER

1. 95.

2. There was one occasion when formal treatment program was not available and this was during the Christmas period of 1979 up to end of January 1980. However, NO patient was refused detoxification and general psychiatric care.

1418 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

How many days travel allowance has been paid to the Minister for Education while in Darwin during the financial year 1977-8?

### ANSWER

122 nights.

1420 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What is the strength of the police force in Katherine?
2. What was it this time last year?
3. How many arrests have been made since 1 July 1979 last year?
4. How many arrests had been made for the period 1 July 1978 to 28 February 1979?

### ANSWER

1. The strength of the police force in Katherine is a total of 29 men made up of:

1 inspector - 1 sergeant 1/C - 6 sergeant 3/C - 21 constables.

The inspector is a divisional officer and relief staff is included in the total.

2. As in 1. above.

3. Arrests made since 1 July 1979:

Protective custody	1,417
Other	542
Total	1,959

4. Arrests for the period 1 July 1978 to 28 February 1979:

Protective custody	1,142
Other	454
Total	1,596

1422 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What steps are being taken to provide fertilizer for agriculture and horticulture at rates economic to producers?

ANSWER

The government has approved a fertilizer freight subsidy at the rate of \$40 per tonne for approved fertilizer purchased and paid for during the 1979-80 financial year. The purpose of the subsidy is to assist primary producers to off-set the high freight costs on imported chemical fertilizers used by them in the production of pastures, crops, fruit and vegetables. As at the end of February, subsidy payments have been made for a total of 249.2 tonnes of approved fertilizer.

1423 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Has Meneling meatworks taken up the \$500,000 loan from the Territory Development Corporation? If not, why not?
2. If the meatworks project has not gone ahead, does this show that the TDC does not carry out sufficient checking of applicants before approving a loan?
3. Has the \$500,000 been tied up doing nothing because Meneling has not been able to get going?

ANSWER

1. No. The loan has lapsed.
2. No. The approval for this particular loan was conditional upon the company providing a certain level of equity and organising the funding for the balance of the project. In common with most development projects the Meneling meatworks proposal depended upon a package of funding. In all cases before offering financial assistance the corporation satisfies itself as to the viability of the project including the ability to repay all loans and takes adequate security before making financial assistance available.
3. No. After financial assistance has been approved by the corporation there is always a delay in releasing funds. These delays reflect the need to take security before any funds are released and vary from case to case. In addition a proportion of loans approved lapse due to changes in applicants' intentions and situations.

1424 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What loans have been made and to whom by the Territory Development Corporation since it came into existence?

ANSWER

It is the belief of the present government that information provided to the Northern Territory Development Corporation and any resultant financial or other assistance provided is confidential. It is considered that the disclosure of such information may be used to advantage by competitors or other interested parties. Other financial institutions do not disclose details of their loan dealings and it is not the intention of this government to have the Northern Territory Development Corporation do so.

1428 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Will the Northern Territory government reconsider Mr Gerry Luck's application for an air charter licence?
2. If not, why not?
3. Why did the Northern Territory government block his last application?

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

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### ANSWER

1. The government has already considered the application and recommended that the Commonwealth Department of Transport issue a charter and aerial work licence.
2. Not applicable.
3. Since late 1979 the government has had a specific policy of not supporting the issue of additional charter licences until such time as the takeover of Connair and its effects throughout all tiers of the aviation industry could be evaluated. In addition the government has been involved in discussions with industry with the aim of further developing its policies in regard to commercial aviation licensing in preparation for the formal transfer of powers. Mr Luck's application, along with a number of others, was delayed for these reasons.

1431 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. When did the NT government acquire the hostels in the NT formerly owned by Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Services?
2. What was the purchase price of each of the hostels?
3. When will the 12 months period, during which the Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Services continues to administer the hostels, expire?
4. What arrangements have been made to ensure continued employment for the staff of Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Services in the NT hostels?

### ANSWER

1. Pursuant to the NT Self-Government Act the hostels owned by the Commonwealth in the NT were legally transferred to the NT on 1 July 1978. The NT government agreed to retain ownership in April 1979.
2. The transfer is at nil cost.
3. The period referred to has not yet commenced.
4. The arrangements for the continued employment of CACS staff after the termination of the 12 months interim agreement between the NT government and CACS have not been finalised.

1432 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Was a bookseller, recently arrived from Western Australia, invited to the opening of the Casuarina library?
2. Is this bookseller an acquaintance of the Director of Library Services?
3. Were any local booksellers invited to the opening of the Casuarina library?

ANSWER

1. An interstate bookseller visiting Darwin for the purpose of discussing terms of trade arrived on 11 February, the day of the official opening of the Casuarina library. The Director of the Northern Territory Library Services was involved with the preparation for the official opening. The interstate bookseller only had limited time in Darwin. The director, therefore, invited him to visit the Casuarina library so that he could ascertain the type of material being selected for the Northern Territory Library Service and so that preliminary discussions could take place about the supply of library materials immediately after the official opening.
2. The bookseller is known to the Director of the Northern Territory Library Service as are most library suppliers in Australia and overseas. Other interstate and overseas library suppliers have visited and will be visiting Darwin to discuss the possibility of supplying material.
3. No local booksellers were invited to the opening of the Casuarina library. The director extends an invitation to any local bookseller to visit the Casuarina library and to have discussions about the supply of books.

1436 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Why is it no longer the practice of the Fire Brigade to necessarily attend at road accidents?

ANSWER

To the best of my knowledge it has never been government policy to have the Fire Brigade automatically attend a traffic accident. The responsibility for attending and controlling accident sites and rescue operation rests with the Northern Territory Police Force.

Should a fire occur or there is a possibility that one may occur, the police officers at the site will summon Fire Brigade assistance. This assistance is rendered immediately upon request.

The police are also aware that the Fire Brigade has a rescue capacity which is available upon request.

1437 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

What plans has the Health Department for replacing the children's ward at the Katherine Hospital?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory Department of Health has included the provision of a new ward at the Katherine Hospital to replace the existing children's ward in its forward proposals for 1982-83.

On this basis, and assuming the project is committed to construction early 1983, completion of the building could be expected by about May 1984.

1439 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In view of the large amounts of lime required by uranium miners in the Territory, has the government investigated the extent of Territory deposits of limestone with a view to encouraging local production and obviating the need to import the material?

ANSWER

The Department of Mines and Energy is keeping a close watch on the search for lime in the Northern Territory. Quite extensive searches have been carried out in past years for suitable lime deposits. Up to the present time no large deposits of lime have been found that would be suitable in the treatment of uranium ores.

For some time now, companies have been searching for a source of lime in the Top End in order to manufacture cement. Limestone are known in large quantities but they are too siliceous or contain too much magnesia to be suitable. Shell and coral debris has been investigated offshore but once again there are not known sources of suitable material and large enough size.

Shell ridges in the Chambers Bay area may contain fair quantities of possibly suitable lime but their removal would be a definite environmental hazard. This is because the ridges are the only barrier between the sea and large areas of low lying land.

1440 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. How will the proceeds from treating the Mt Wells battery dump be distributed?
2. Has any part of the dump been treated in recent times? If so, what was the value of the recovery and to whom was it distributed?
3. How long is it expected before all the present dump will be processed?

ANSWER

1. There are 3 types of battery sand dumps at Mt Wells:
  - (a) Dump of old tailings belonging to various prospectors.
  - (b) Dump of old tailings belonging to Mr Reid and party.
  - (c) Dump of old tailings belonging to the Northern Territory government.

The proceeds of dump type (a) will be distributed to prospectors on a pro-rata basis as per tonnage and grade of their crushings at the time of treatment.

The proceeds of dump type (b) are paid to Reid and party.

The proceeds of dump type (c) are paid in to revenue.

2. About 429 tonnes were treated from dump type (b) and proceeds of \$5,200 were paid to Reid and party.

About 1,440 tonnes were treated from dump type (c) and the proceeds of \$31,190 were paid into the Northern Territory revenue.

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

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3. Dump material is normally treated when there is no ore from prospectors available or during the wet season. It is estimated, depending on the work load and number of shifts operated per day, that it will take several years to complete the retreatment of all dumps.

1444 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware of allegations that fish have been netted in the Red Lily Lagoon on Elsey Station and elsewhere on the Roper River and, if so, will he increase the number of inspectors to police the area?

ANSWER

I am aware of the illegal netting activities in the Roper River area.

The government has taken steps to provide a fisheries inspector with an assistant, who will be stationed at Roper Bar, and whose area will be the Roper River.

1446 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Have any government ministers or members of their families applied to the Territory Development Corporation for a loan and, if so, what are the details of the applications, the purpose of the loan and the result of each application?

ANSWER

No government minister or member of their close families have applied to the Northern Territory Development Corporation for a loan. The corporation does not investigate the extended family relationships of an applicant except where such a relative has financial interest in the application.

1448 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Which organisations and individuals applied for International Year of the Child grants from your department?
2. Which of these organisations and individuals were successful, and how much did each one receive?

ANSWER

1. The following organisations applied for International Year of the Child grants from the Department of Community Development:

1. Brown's Mart
2. Uniting Church of Northern Australia - Aboriginal Women's Resource Centre
3. NT Arts Council
4. Corporation of the City of Darwin
5. Darwin Family Centres
6. Casuarina Lyons Club
7. St Pauls School, Nightcliff
8. Darwin Apex Club
9. Northern Territory Hockey Association
10. The Australian Association of Dance
11. The Banks' Hockey Club
12. The Kim Saunders Ballet School

13. Darwin Special Schools
14. The NT Secondary Schools Sports Association
15. The Christian Parents and Friends Association
16. The Nightcliff Youth Band
17. The School Library Association of the NT
18. Darwin Toy Library Incorporated
19. The Fellowship of Australian Writers
20. The Aboriginal Educational Tour to the NT
21. The NT Pre-Schools Association
22. The Alice Springs High School
23. The Sadadeen High School Alice Springs
24. The Katherine Regional Council
25. The Nhulunbuy Area School Ladies Auxiliary
26. The Nhulunbuy Play Group Association
27. The Tennant Creek Brownies
28. The NT Council of Social Services
29. The Alice Springs IYC Steering Committee
30. The Darwin IYC Steering Committee
31. The Darwin City to Surf Committee
32. The Darwin Camera Club
33. The Darwin Family Planning Association
34. The Darwin Youth Refuge
35. The Salvation Army (NT Division)
36. The Alice Springs Youth Centre
37. The Tennant Creek Theatre Society
38. The Tiwi Parents Association
39. The Department of Education Music Faculty
40. The Uniting Church Women's Fellowship
41. The Physiotherapy Association of the NT
42. The Christmas in Darwin Association
43. The Darwin Ballroom Dancing Association
44. The NT Play Group Association
45. Tennant Creek Scouts and Guides
46. The Alice Springs Toy Library Committee
47. The NT Environmental Council
48. The NT Pre-School Teachers Association
49. The Student Representatives Council - Alyangula Area School
50. The Alice Springs Toy Exchange
51. The Franciscan Sisters Tennant Creek
52. Katherine Steering Committee
53. The Migrant Resource and Settlement Centre.

2. The following grants were provided through International Year of the Child:

ORGANISATION	PURPOSE	AMOUNT
Corporation of the City of Darwin	Fun in the Parks	1,300.00
Casuarina Lyons Club	Adventure play grounds	5,000.00
Sadadeen High School	Film screenings	1,000.00
Nhulunbuy Area School Ladies Auxiliary	Play ground equipment	1,500.00
Nhulunbuy Play Group Association	Equipment	200.00
Darwin IYC Steering Committee	The Knee High Show	3,000.00
Darwin IYC Steering Committee	Fourth World Photographic Exhibition	2,000.00
Darwin IYC Steering Committee	Dr Clare Ibister tour	500.00
Darwin Family Planning Association	Young Peoples Action Centre	1,000.00
	Play equipment	2,674.00



# ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The Migrant Resource and Settlement Centre	Multi lingual childrens library	3,005.50
Darwin and District Toy Library	Equipment	708.85
Alice Springs Toy Library Committee	Establishment costs	2,000.00
Student Representatives Council - Alyangula Area School	Equipment for drop-in centre	1,000.00
Tiwi Parents Association	Mural painting	200.00
Department of Education Music Faculty	Transport costs	288.00
The Physiotherapy Association of the NT	Childbirth seminar	350.00
The Christmas in Darwin Association	Children's choir	200.00
The Alice Springs Toy Exchange	Establishment costs	500.00
The Franciscan Sisters Tennant Creek	Disadvantaged children taken to Alice Springs	600.00
The Aboriginal Education Tour to NT	T-shirts	265.00
Tennant Creek Brownies	Camp Costs	230.00
NT Council of Social Services	Visit by Dr D. Morris	200.00
Brown's Mart	Boungainvillea Festival IYC launching	567.32
Alice Springs IYC Steering Committee	Kids convoy	5,000.00
Darwin Camera Club	Establishment costs	500.00
YWCA on behalf of Darwin Youth Refuge	Photographic competition	85.48
The Uniting Church of NA Aboriginal Women's Resource Centre	Producing film on children and the law	5,425.00
Darwin Family Centres	Workshop	6,000.00
	Family Fun Bus	8,165.00

1451 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Did the minister seek prior assurances from the federal Minister for Immigration that the family reunion scheme would proceed when the Chief Minister made the scheme public in March this year?

ANSWER

There are many families in the Northern Territory who have relatives overseas who currently are not able to migrate to Australia under the existing selection criteria. In February 1980, representations were made to Commonwealth government on behalf of these families on the subject of the establishment of a family union program with reference to the Northern Territory to be called the Northern Territory Personal Nominations Scheme. The proposed scheme, which is still subject to final approval by both the honourable Ian Macphree and myself, will allow some families who fulfil certain criteria to nominate close relatives from overseas for reunion with their families in the Territory. It is envisaged that sponsoring families in the Northern Territory who wish to apply under this scheme will have to give certain guarantees of employment and housing etc for the new arrivals and that there will be a requirement to reside in the Northern Territory for a specified time. The scheme is aimed at promoting the needs and the development of the Northern Territory population and meeting the needs of some migrants and refugee families already living in the Territory. Critical to its success will be full cooperation between the Territory and the Commonwealth officials in the administration of the scheme and, perhaps even more importantly, the enthusiastic participation and support of the community.

I commenced negotiations on this scheme with the former Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, Michael Mackellar, as late as August last year and the scheme was going along really well. At the time the Chief Minister made the announcement to the Portuguese Chinese community that we had been negotiating with the Commonwealth, we did have a draft agreement which spelt out the various criteria that would apply in the reunion program. It was to be a pilot program. When the Chief Minister made the announcement, Dr Moss Cass, the federal opposition spokesman on immigration and ethnic affairs, came out and slammed the scheme. It is interesting to note that, at the recent Immigration and Ethnic Affairs Conference that was held in Darwin last Friday, the states opposing the scheme were New South Wales, a Labor state and Tasmania, another Labor state. Queensland also was not able to give firm support to the proposals because the minister said that he would have to take that particular proposal back to his Cabinet. The states of Western Australia, Victoria and South Australia all supported the scheme. As I understand it, the federal minister is going to go back to his parliamentary colleagues with a Cabinet submission in the next couple of weeks and we are hopeful that that particular scheme will become a reality in the Northern Territory.

1452 Mr VALE to TREASURER

Can he restructure the domestic electricity tariffs to provide cheaper electricity?

ANSWER

The simple answer to the question is yes but the pertinent points are how it is done and where the money comes from. Honourable members are no doubt aware of the opposition's recent announcements that, in the unlikely event that they become the government in the Northern Territory, one of their first actions would be to reduce domestic electricity tariffs. One can only assume that, in taking such action, the opposition would either have to increase commercial tariffs or make up the shortfall in some other way. The ways open to the Northern Territory government, with its specific powers, are limited but one of those would certainly be by using revenue gained from Territorians; that is, perhaps they are proposing an increase in taxation.

Mr Speaker, we are all aware of the arrangements with the federal government whereby they are prepared to subsidise the difference between the costs of generating electricity in the Territory and a sum equivalent to the North Queensland tariffs. At the moment, it is running at about \$40m and one can be fairly sure that the Commonwealth is not interested in increasing that subsidy by changing the formula to provide Territorians with the benefit of a reduction beyond north Queensland tariff rates without some offsetting financial arrangement.

We can only assume that, to reduce domestic tariffs, the opposition proposes to increase commercial tariffs and this would certainly make a mockery of their professed sympathy for the plight of small businesses because small businesses are paying substantially above the domestic tariff but that is the system which exists in north Queensland and we are following that because it is part of the agreement with the Commonwealth. The other way is to increase taxation in the Territory and provide a Territory government subsidy to the Northern Territory Electricity Commission in order to make up the shortfall in revenue provided by the subsidy arrangements.

In making such simple bald statements like 'we will bring down your power bill', which really do not mean a great deal, the opposition should come clean and tell Territorians exactly how it proposes to do it because the facts of life are that the cost is the cost. We have a financial arrangement which is working; it proposes to change it. There has to be disadvantages to the Territory in some other area and it should let us know.

To answer the honourable member's question, certainly the power exists for a Northern Territory government to structure electricity tariffs in just about any way it likes but any shortfall which results from such restructuring has to be made up by the Northern Territory government in one way or another.

1453 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In line with undertakings already given privately, could he indicate to the House when prisoner Woodham, presently at Darwin Prison Berrimah, will be transferred to a New South Wales prison?

ANSWER

I am surprised by the question from the honourable member for Nightcliff.

I have never given any undertaking and I only just briefly discussed the Woodham's case with her at a recent function. The context of my conversation with her was that I had not seen any documents from the department regarding the transfer. I had only seen what appeared in the Star last week in relation to him going on a hunger strike and that he had won his battle. I went on to say, and it is not rubbish at all, that it is very likely that, when the paperwork did come to me for consideration of the transfer to New South Wales, I would not approve it.

1454 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Could he tell me please if money is available for the proposed Elizabeth River causeway at the Elizabeth River subdivision?

ANSWER

Yes, the money is available from the Northern Territory government to construct this causeway which has been the cause of considerable concern to certain persons in the honourable member for Tiwi's electorate. I have taken a personal interest in this matter for some time. It has been a very complex matter of sorting out the rights and responsibilities of the various parties involved. I have undertaken that money would be provided by the government to complete the action required so that these persons can obtain a reasonable access to their properties.

1455 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Despite the fact that the Motor Vehicles Dealer Act was passed by this Assembly nearly 12 months ago, it has still not come into operation. I understand this is because the regulations have still not been completed. Will he undertake to have this act brought into operation without further delay in the interests of both consumers and also motor vehicle dealers in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

At the moment, the regulations are with the motor vehicle dealers for comment. As soon as that comment has been received, we will have the regulations presented to the House.

1456 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Rumours are going around that, with the opening of the Casuarina Hospital, hospital costs to the public will increase. Could the minister inform me if this will be the case?

ANSWER

I have no idea where the rumour would have originated nor the basis on which the rumour would be peddled. If the honourable member can find any reasonable basis for such a rumour, I would be happy to get the department to investigate it. I have no knowledge personally of any proposal for hospital charges to increase because we are shifting from the Darwin Hospital to the Casuarina Hospital.

1457 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has he conveyed to the Commonwealth Minister for Education the recommendation of his department that Katherine and Tennant Creek be declared disadvantaged country areas in respect of Schools Commission grants?

ANSWER

The honourable member must be referring to the country areas disadvantaged school scheme of Schools Commission. I have put to the Commonwealth that the entire of the Northern Territory be declared disadvantaged for the purposes of that scheme with the exception of Darwin and Alice Springs. I think this is justified.

1458 Mr BALLANTYNE to CHIEF MINISTER

I believe the Chief Minister is aware of the recent sightings of crocodiles around Cove. Some 10 sightings were reported over the last weekend. What action has been taken or what immediate action will be taken by the wildlife people to help remove these crocodiles or perhaps place notices to give warning to the people in the town? They are becoming very disturbed.

ANSWER

I am not quite certain from what the honourable member said - whether the crocodiles or the people in the town are becoming disturbed. I know that the problem of crocodiles is a serious one at Nhulunbuy and the Conservation Commission with which the honourable member for Nhulunbuy has been in touch is equally concerned that people in the Northern Territory, particularly those at Nhulunbuy, should not suffer as a result of the depredations of these animals. I would be very happy to take on board the suggestion made by the honourable member just now that signs warning the public of the existence and proximity of crocodiles could be placed at popular spots around Nhulunbuy. I understand that a survey of the crocodile population in the area has been carried out by the Conservation Commission. I don't think that I have seen the results as yet but, obviously, if crocodiles are being regularly sighted at popular spots in the area, steps will have to be taken by the Conservation Commission to attempt to relocate some of these crocodiles further away from human habitation. I am quite sure that none of us would want to see a repetition of the attack which resulted in the death of a young man who was spear-fishing near Nhulunbuy last year. I do take this matter very seriously and I will ask the Conservation Commission to erect signs in consultation with either the Northern Land Council or the Community Council at Yirrkala on whose land they will have to be erected. We will also look at relocating crocodiles where it is deemed necessary.

1459 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has he made representations to the federal Minister for Transport concerning the carriage of domestic passengers on Qantas international flights between Darwin and southern ports and, if so, what was the outcome of his representations?

ANSWER

I have not made a direct representation for the carriage of Darwin domestic passengers on Qantas to any minister. I am well aware of the policy and I am well aware of the changes that are being recommended to government in respect of the carriage of domestic passengers on international aircraft and vice versa.

1460 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will the Elizabeth River causeway at the Elizabeth River subdivision be built?

ANSWER

My understanding is that the money is available and that the work will be carried out during this calendar year.

1461 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Could he advise why prisoner's wages in the Northern Territory have been reduced from the magnificent sum of 35c a day to 30c a day?

ANSWER

I would ask the honourable member to place the question on notice.

1462 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will hospital services be maintained at the Darwin Hospital to cater for age pensioners' needs?

ANSWER

I have advised the House previously that there will be some basic health facilities and outpatient facilities maintained at the Darwin Hospital. I could not tell the honourable member to what degree they would satisfy the needs of pensioners but I can assure him that there will be a health unit maintained at the Darwin Hospital after the transfer is completed to Casuarina. If necessary, we can look at how we might provide age pensioners with facilities if a particular need is identified.

1463 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Could he explain why mileage allowances paid to parents who transport their own children to school from where they live in isolated areas has been cut by 50%?

ANSWER

It does seem that there must be an election in the wind because the honourable member is at last taking an interest in education. I am unaware of the substance of the honourable member's question and will seek the information and advise him later.

1464 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer to the expected influx of migrants into the Northern Territory under the migrant family reunion scheme and the accommodation that will be necessary for these people. Will people at present on the Housing Commission waiting list for flats and houses be penalised by having to wait longer?

ANSWER

Information that I have at this stage would indicate that is not the case. All persons who put their names down on the Housing Commission list for accommodation are assessed in the same way and they take their turn. The out-of-turn allocation system is based on needs criteria and these people are assessed on a uniform set of procedures and out-of-turn allocation is granted in certain circumstances. At this stage, we are not looking at providing out-of-turn accommodation specifically for people on the grounds merely that they are migrants.

1465 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

With the year of the handicapped persons coming up and with the increasing parking restrictions on motor vehicles, can he please tell me if consideration has been given to issuing stickers for those vehicles, private or otherwise, required to carry handicapped persons?

ANSWER

The government has not given consideration to stickers but certainly we are very concerned to play our part in the year of the handicapped persons which is next year and, in this respect, we are looking at ways of assisting handicapped persons. There is a federal policy being launched through the Department of Industry and Commerce in respect of the facilities in hotels and other places where disadvantaged persons might care to stay. I have had a representation from people who are concerned about the lack of a ramp leading onto the railway platform. We have made representations to the Commonwealth railways about that and we are treating the matter very seriously.

1466 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has his attention been drawn to a deficiency in the Electrical Workers and Contractors Act which results in the fact that persons repairing electrical appliances are not required to be licensed? Will he examine this deficiency and bring it to the attention of the minister responsible, the Minister for Mines and Energy, with a view to having this deficiency rectified?

ANSWER

If there is such a deficiency, I will bring it to the attention of the Minister for Mines and Energy.

1467 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In view of the fact that there will be an election some time before

August, could he advise me of the current position with staff shortages at the Alice Springs High School?

ANSWER

Considering it is an election year and that the Alice Springs High School happens to be slap bang in the middle of my electorate, I would have liked to have seen this problem solved long ago. The realities are that, with the very best endeavours of the Commonwealth Teaching Service to fill the few remaining vacancies, it has proved to be extremely difficult. To give one quick example, a particular teacher was desired by the school for his particular field. That teacher was hired and on about the date that he was to commence duty, he advised that he no longer wished to come to the Northern Territory. At that time, that teacher was overseas. The complexity of problems like that has resulted in a small deficiency in the number of teaching staff at the Alice Springs High School.

I would like to again express my appreciation to the staff for the extra efforts they have put into overcoming the difficulties of several teachers missing over a period of time. We are hoping that the matter can be resolved immediately but, as all honourable members would be aware, once a teacher who has been appointed to a job says that he is no longer willing to come, we have to start recruiting all over again. It is one of the traps of having a teaching service administered from some 3,000-odd kilometres away. It is one of the reasons why this government has been particularly anxious to establish its own teaching service. Indeed, it has done everything within its powers to achieve that as soon as possible.

1468 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has patronage of special bus services to and from sporting events increased in Darwin since the St Patrick's Day meeting? If so, will these services be continued?

ANSWER

I have not got the figures in front of me in respect of the special-event patronage of bus services. We have considered these events as individual requests for assistance by sporting communities and I think our attitude would be to continue to consider those requests individually. Certainly, the general patronage - I have some figures which I might be able to bring forward later on - has been quite good and we are pleased with the results.

1469 Mr HARRIS to MANAGER of GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Is he, in his capacity as Manager of Government Business, aware of comments made by the Northern Territory News that the government's legislative program is in disarray? Is this the case and can the minister assure the public that the government's legislative program is in good order?

ANSWER

Somebody has suggested that that is a Dorothy Dixier. I cannot accept



that. It does leave me at something of a loss to understand the logic behind the journalist's conclusions. He is after all, and I say this with sincerity, a very experienced and very respected political columnist. I would have thought that the present state of legislation before this House reflects the consistency in the way the CLP is governing. The opposition, no doubt, would treat the legislation in a more cavalier fashion. The fact is that this government does not believe in closeting itself in dimly-lit backrooms, making hard and fast rules and then demanding that this parliament slavishly enact its legislation. The fact is that, on many occasions, the only way you can get a public reaction - the Mining Bill is a very good example of this - is by introducing legislation so that people will then very closely consider it.

If you look back over the record of the government, you will find examples like the Mental Health Bill, Education, Mining, Electoral, Dogs, Firearms, Liquor, Consumer Legislation, the TIO Bill, the complementary Aboriginal land rights legislation and so on. All of those bills would have had in the order of 30-plus amendments and, on a number of occasions, have been reintroduced into this House in the consolidated form for convenience to members. The plain fact is that this government governs by consultation in response to the public and we will not withdraw from that position. Where the public has a meaningful contribution and input, by way of amendment to legislation, this government will listen to that input and will act on it. We do not assume as, judging from it's interjections, obviously the Labor Party would, that we have the sole wisdom of government. We believe that the community has a role to play in the formation of legislation through the committee stages of the parliament and that is the reason for the wide-ranging amendments to the legislation.

1470 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has agreement been reached with local government authorities in the Northern Territory for the staffing of libraries which are being transferred to local government? Will library staff be employed by his department or by the municipalities?

ANSWER

Negotiations are being carried out for the takeover of the Casuarina Library on 1 July by the Corporation of the City of Darwin. The Department of Community Development will provide the financial assistance for staffing and equipping the library for a 1-year period. It is then hoped that the corporation will take the library over completely. The same type of negotiations will be entered into with Alice Springs corporation on completion of their library which should be in May or June this year. As the small regional local government centres such as Tennant Creek and Katherine Council complete their infrastructures for libraries, the same arrangements will apply. The department will fund and provide the services for the first 12 months to establish what the expenses of the facilities will be. Negotiations will then be carried out between the corporations and the government on the future funding of those libraries.

1471 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can the minister inform me of any progress on the building of the boat

ramp at Nhulunbuy beach?

ANSWER

I understand that lease negotiations are currently taking place between the traditional owners and the Chief Minister's Department. My proposal would be that, as soon as those lease negotiations have been concluded, the item will be submitted for the 1980-81 capital works program.

1472 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it his intention to bring forward regulations concerning the amateur fishing and fishermen in the Northern Territory and, if so, when?

ANSWER

It is not the government's intention to bring forward regulations in respect of amateur fishermen at present.

1473 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to TREASURER

When will the rural development guidelines put out by the planning people for the rural area be adopted?

ANSWER

Unfortunately, to some degree, the processing of a draft rural plan has been put outside my control. However, I understand the deliberations by the Rural Area Planning Authority have been completed and the department is now doing a collation of the objections and suggestions by the authority for possible amendments to the plan before it is adopted. I expect these to be with me within 3 weeks. I will ask the department if it can shorten that time a little bit. It has been of concern to me that it has taken so long to get a plan over rural Darwin. The need has been recognised for many years. The draft plan went on display for 3 months last year and, since that time, the Rural Area Planning Authority has been considering objections to the plan and suggestions for amendments. After the plan reaches my hands, I will consider what recommendations I will be making to Executive Council as far as the final adoption is concerned. However, I am anxious that such a plan be completed and brought into operation at the earliest possible date.

1475 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has the construction of a solar-powered capacity at the Yulara Tourist Village been put out to public tender? If not, will he ensure that Australian Companies will be allowed to tender for the project.

ANSWER

To the best of my knowledge, there are not many people in the world who are prepared to tender for the provision of solar-powered appliances or whatever. I must make an exception of solar hot water systems. These have become very commonplace. When the government first decided to look at the prospects of introducing solar power wherever it could, it was mindful of the fact that there are not very many people in the world who are involved in the scheme and, when we got this advice from the Western Australian Energy Commission, no one that we were aware of was interested in tendering for a fixed price. They all wanted to tender on the basis of a cost plus price such as aircraft manufacturers do. Very few of the companies in the world have sufficient technology to provide the sort of solar power generation units that we would need in the Northern Territory.

As a result of my discussions with the Western Australian Energy Commission, we received a proposal from McDonnell Douglas Aero Space Corporation who are building a facility in America under the auspices of the American government. They said to us: 'We are doing this project and we would like to make you aware of it. There are the principles of it. We cannot give you a cost but we would be very interested in establishing an Australian-based industry to provide similar units in Australia. We see the Northern Territory, the north of Queensland and the north of Western Australia as being areas that are particularly interesting to us. Is your government in the Northern Territory interested in our proposal?' I was personally interested to see what the Americans would come up with. They maintained that the technology that they developed resulted from their space program when they were heavily involved in putting a man on the moon with the American government space administration during the late 1960's. They said that we must accept the fact that the technology will be difficult, time-consuming and expensive. If we enter into the project on that basis, in the course of time we should all get somewhere.

I had the opportunity to visit the McDonnell Douglas facility in San Diego to look at the work they were doing there. I have had a further meeting with the vice-president of the company who was in Australia recently. I would like to inform the House that on 30 April, which is just a week away, the company will be submitting to the Northern Territory government a proposal for the possible erection of a solar-powered power-station to be built at a place in the Centre, hopefully at Ayers Rock because it would have a very practical application there. I cannot pre-empt the submission but I would say the government is very interested in being involved in the development of this technology. The federal government has said that it would be prepared to consider a proposal from the Territory to encourage the development of such technology in the Territory. As soon as we have the proposal and the details are available, I would be quite happy to advise members of the contents. Ultimately, Cabinet will have to take a decision on whether it is prepared to go ahead with it.

1476 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When will construction commence on the Mindil Beach casino?

ANSWER

Under the terms of the act and the agreement for licensing casinos in the Northern Territory, it is necessary for the developers to seek approval from myself for the actual builder they propose to use in such contracts. I have recently given approval to the Darwin builder. The contract is expected to be let between the casino company and the builder within the next couple of weeks and construction is expected to start immediately. It has been a very long and difficult job for the company. The prices that they received in their tenders were substantially above earlier estimates and they had a period of negotiation between the contractors and the companies attempting to see if they could not bring the price down a little. However, agreement has been reached and there has been a substantial amount of work done on the Mindil site already even though it is not visible. Very substantial sums have been spent on the site and I would hope to see buildings erected there within the next few months. They assure me that construction will start immediately the contract is let.

1477 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is he aware that an Australian company, Anutech, is already constructing a small solar power facility in White Cliffs in New South Wales and would have the capacity to construct a facility at Yulara. If so, will he ensure that the construction of the facility at Yulara is put to public tender?

ANSWER

I am aware of the facility that is being constructed in New South Wales and I would put it to the honourable member that it is a little different from the one proposed by the McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Corporation. The one in New South Wales is a relatively small unit and I am not casting disparaging remarks on that at all but it is different to the unit that we are looking at for a town the size of the Yulara Village. We anticipate that, at Yulara Village, we will need an electricity supply capable of supplying power to about 6,000 tourists a day. The proposal by McDonnell Douglas is for a 1-megawatt station in the initial stages but with the capacity to turn it to 2 megawatts when the time is ripe. I have had correspondence with the company to which the honourable member refers. Its unit is much smaller and would not be suitable for that particular application. It would not discourage the government from entering into discussions with the people who have this technology to put the smaller unit in smaller communities in the Northern Territory.

I do not think going to tender and picking out either the cheapest or what appears to be the most logical deal would necessarily be in the interests of the Northern Territory people. One of the interesting things that has occurred is that the Japanese have emerged in the last couple of months with a solar power-station comparable to the one envisaged for Ayers Rock. Where the American unit collects the sun's rays from the side and reflects them up to the heat-collecting tower,

the Japanese unit collects the rays from underneath and reflects them up. The Japanese unit reflects the attitude of people living next to the equator. Their proposal is applicable to any place near the equator where the sun is most often overhead. The American one is developed by people who live away from the equator. The process of collecting the sun's rays at the side and sending them back into the tower is most applicable to places away from the equator. The scientific people that I spoke to - we had discussions with the Atomic Energy Commission in Sydney recently - have indicated that, if you turned those 2 stations round and put the Japanese unit in the Centre and the McDonnell Douglas unit in the north, there would be a great difference in the performance of the 2 units because of the way they collect the sun's rays and their relationship to the equator.

The White Cliffs' exercise that the honourable member speaks about is a third one again. I believe the Italians are entering the field and we have had discussions with them on their proposal. I think it is in our best interest to take these exercises as they come, particularly with Australian companies, and apply them if we can to whatever sites in the Northern Territory we feel they have an application in. If the honourable member is trying to draw from the government a guarantee that Australian companies will get the running, I can assure him that the attitude of this government is to do that. We would see that as our role and in the best interests of our community and the country rather than just paper and overseas units. The truth is that we do not really have all the technology to do the things we want.

I have made arrangements to talk to the people who are providing the facility at White Cliffs as soon as possible to listen to their proposal and to have NTEC or Mines and Energy enter into discussions with them on how and where we might use their unit in the Northern Territory. I am of the view, and this comes back to my philosophy as an individual, that we are breaking technology. It is going to be slow and costly and it is going to have plenty of mistakes but that applies to the breaking of any technology whoever you are or wherever you are. It does not matter how much money you have in your pocket; you are not going to buy shortcuts in technological development. If we enter into it on the basis of being aware of all those things and try to do the best we can, in the long term the people of the Northern Territory will get a great deal of benefit out of our efforts. I would just say as a final note: yes, we would be more than happy to talk to the people in NSW if they wish.

1478 Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

My question concerns a NSW building society utilising the Ayers Rock for publicity purposes. I ask the Chief Minister what he is going to do about it?

ANSWER

This is an interesting question from the member for Stuart who lives not too far from Ayers Rock which is perhaps the best known symbol of the Northern Territory throughout Australia and indeed throughout the world. Certainly, my limited travels throughout the world have left me with the impression that most people overseas think Australia is a large island off New Zealand and that Ayers Rock is somewhere in this

country. They know about Ayers Rock and the Great Barrier Reef. In promoting the Territory, Ayers Rock is much used by our Tourist Commission and indeed by all operators who sent tours to that area. Last year, Ayers Rock had the greatest number of visitors of any spot in the Territory - between 80,000 and 100,000 people. As the Minister for Mines and Energy has just mentioned, when the Yulara Tourist Village is completed at a total cost of to government and private expenditure of \$75m, we do expect a maximum daily visitor turnover of about 6,000 people. This is many more than in the very small community of White Cliffs that the honourable Leader of the Opposition was talking about. That consists of a couple of hundred people up in the north-west corner of New South Wales.

Apparently, a New South Wales building society, whether for genuine, publicity or promotional reasons, has seized on the use of Ayers Rock and has apparently tied it with a slogan somewhat to the effect that the building society is as solid as the Rock. The Northern Territory, in launching its loan No 2 and subsequently its No 3 loan, has been using the Rock as a symbol of the solidity and stability of the Territory loan, backed as it is by the Commonwealth government. Our public relations people have used this slogan on our material saying that the loan is as solid as the Rock.

Apparently, this building society in New South Wales, which I have never really heard of previously even though it may be well known in New South Wales, has taken umbrage at the Northern Territory government's use of the symbol Ayers Rock and this wording. Apparently, legal proceedings are now taking place in Sydney and indeed there is an application by the building society for an injunction and it may even be heard today or tomorrow. The building society is attempting to preclude the Northern Territory government from using Ayers Rock as an advertising symbol and to require the absolute and sole use of that symbol of Ayers Rock for its own private purposes.

I suppose that this building society has had to go through various registration procedures and is required to account for its activities annually. Whatever its solidity and whatever its security, I doubt that it would come anywhere near the solidity and stability of the Northern Territory government backed financially by the Commonwealth of Australia. Whilst I am not opposed to people using their ingenuity in promoting their product, I do think that it is in fairly poor taste that this building society should attempt to use the Territory's major tourist symbol for its own private purposes. I am absolutely appalled by the fact that it should attempt to stop the Northern Territory using its major international symbol and every possible measure will be taken by this government to ensure that we continue to use Ayers Rock as a symbol of Northern Territory activity wherever we feel the need exists.

1479 Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Which firm of advertising consultants, if any, was retained to handle the advertising for the Northern Territory government loans nos 2 and 3 and how much was the firm paid?

ANSWER

I hesitate because I am trying to recall the name of the company. I can certainly provide it. The same advertising company handled the advertising promotions of the 3 Northern Territory government loans to date. It is an Adelaide based company. I cannot provide off the cuff the amount that it was paid for the promotions. It has certainly done an excellent job and certainly earned its money. However, I will undertake to obtain the information in detail and provide it to the honourable member.

1480 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Regarding electricity reticulation in caravan parks, what plans are there to rationalise this use by caravan park tenants with regard to domestic rates and commercial rates?

ANSWER

This saga has been going on for at least 3 years. I would like to advise the honourable member that we have made provision through the Northern Territory Electricity Commission for people living in caravan parks to avail themselves of the domestic rate of power which is considerably cheaper than the commercial rate. This is in parks that install, at their own cost and responsibility, separate meters for each site. Now, I have had quite a few discussions with all the caravan park owners from time to time and they have all put the case that, while some of them have a very desperate need to install individual power meters, other caravan parks have absolutely no application at all because they deal with overnights and bus camping tours. For the honourable member's information, if she has constituents or caravan park owners who are concerned at paying the industrial rate for power, they have the option of installing separate meters on all their sites to provide their customers with the cheaper rate and this will be done with the full cooperation of NTEC.

1481 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

My question refers to the proposed stock feed legislation. Has a submission to prepare the legislation yet gone to Cabinet and, if not, when is such a submission likely to be prepared?

ANSWER

I will have to look at the matter today and advise the honourable member this afternoon.

1482 Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise on the Northern Territory requirements concerning the provision of the emission control equipment on motor vehicles? What effect, if any, would the removal of such equipment have on vehicles under warranty?

ANSWER

There is no requirement under Northern Territory law to have vehicles

equipped with the emission controls. I would warn those persons thinking of removing that equipment that they might negate their warranty in some aspects. In addition, they might have difficulty getting their vehicle registered. These are the 2 aspects they should care to consider.

1483 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is it true that the \$150,000 allocated by the federal government for transitional programs in the Northern Territory from school to work will be spent by the Northern Territory government on a study of the need for such a program?

ANSWER

As far as I know, there is no proposal to study the need for such a program. Every honourable member here would certainly be aware of the need for the program to commence. I have received a proposal from the Commonwealth minister and, to the best of my recollection, my department is proceeding with the implementation of the program. I might add, Mr Speaker, that it is rather similar to the Commonwealth Department of Social Security's involvement in pre-schools. The Commonwealth seems to come up with an excellent idea and makes an offer to the various state governments. The state governments then respond, as we did as the Territory government in respect of the Commonwealth's offer of funding the transitional program, and the Commonwealth then turns around and tells you what is good for your own system. As a result, there are disagreements and delays between the state governments and the Commonwealth. I think that the sooner the Commonwealth realises that the state governments appreciate their money but not their interference, the more expeditiously and the more efficiently these programs will be brought on line.

I commend the Commonwealth for its initiative in this area. While it must be satisfied that the money is spent properly, it ought to leave the nuts and bolts and the mechanics of the program to states which better understand their own needs than the Commonwealth does. That is one of the reasons why this party, against the opposition of our opponents opposite, sought self-government and has turned it into a success. Nonetheless, the Commonwealth is rather reluctant to stay at home on all things.

1484 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the present status of the proposed road to Rainbow Cliffs?

ANSWER

The proposition to construct a recreation road to Rainbow Cliffs at Nhulunbuy is supported. At present, negotiations are taking place with the traditional owners and, as soon as their agreement is available, we will proceed with the road.

1485 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the work on the Ludmilla-Fannie Bay connector road been further delayed? If so, can the minister explain the reasons for this delay and advise the amended completion date for the contract?



ANSWER

The road construction has been delayed somewhat. This was caused mainly by excessive rainfalls in January. It is expected that the roadwork will be completed some time towards the end of May.

1486 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Will the government give consideration to the Tiwi people selling dugong and turtle in certain situations and under certain conditions?

ANSWER

Certainly the government would give consideration to Aboriginal people, under certain circumstances and in certain conditions, selling dugong or turtle - perhaps selling it in their own community on a limited basis. However, I would ask the honourable member to put the question on notice so that I can have it properly examined. Before I seek the advice of the Conservation Commission, I ask the honourable member to let me have details of what the Tiwi people actually want to do.

1487 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

The Northern Territory government has commissioned yet another consultant to do the survey of the eastern portion of the Alice Springs commonage. When will the results of this survey be known?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of the completion date included in the brief that has been given to a consultant to determine the best usage of the commonage area in Alice Springs. I will undertake to obtain the information for the honourable member. At present, I understand the consultant is seeking the view of all interested parties in Alice Springs to put together a proposal to government on an overall development plan for the area. Recently, the government has had specific proposals for parts of the commonage and there have been a number of applications by various organisations for land in the commonage. It is a limited area which should be planned in a total context before land is released in the area.

1488 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I have asked on other occasions when the city area is to be provided with a decent library facility. Where and when will such a facility be provided?

ANSWER

I am quite happy to say that negotiations have been carried out with the owners of Centrepoint for the establishment of a Darwin library. The area that has been negotiated for is 500 square metres and we hope to occupy the premises some time in October.

1489 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is it a fact that the Territory Insurance Office has recently purchased from North Contructions Pty Ltd lot 1519 Town of Darwin situated on

the corner of Searcy and Smith Streets for \$450,000? Is it further fact that the Northern Territory Housing Commission has been instructed to hand back to the government for re-allocation to the TIO lot 1521 in Searcy Street? If so, what are the reasons for these transactions?

ANSWER

The Territory Insurance Office has indeed purchased the lot in question. I do not know if that is the right number but it is certainly the right address. I am not completely familiar with the price but it was in the vicinity of \$450,000. The adjoining block along side was vested in the care and control of the Housing Commission which did not have any specific plans for it. I directed the Housing Commission to hand the block back to the Department of Lands and Housing whereupon the department would negotiate with the Territory Insurance Office on the sale of the block. There is no connotation whatsoever that the Territory Insurance Office, in considering this investment on behalf of its policyholders, would be obtaining land from the government for free and I doubt that a case would be mounted for concessional treatment either. The Territory Insurance Office is having a proposal put together which will be submitted to myself and to Cabinet for a major development of its own on the sites in question.

1490 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

The Darwin Aviation Club in Parap in my electorate was burnt down some time ago. Will the minister advise if discussions have been held between his departmental officers and officers of the club about the future use of that land and, if so, what will be its future use and the use of adjacent vacant crown land in the area?

ANSWER

I do not have specific details in my mind to respond to the honourable member's question. The best course of action would be for her to put the question on notice. There have been proposals floated for use of the old hangar in the vacant crown land area as a possible museum. I am not sure who the applicant is so the matter could be a little complex and I suggest that a question on notice would be the best way.

1491 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the government any plans to bring or allow the bringing of live kangaroos or kangaroo meat from the expected harvest in New South Wales to the Northern Territory for hunting and use of Aborigines in the Tiwi islands considering that this meat is grossly favoured by the Tiwi people?

ANSWER

I have actually been able to get some information on this subject this morning, would you believe? Kangaroos in the Tiwi islands are a different species from those in New South Wales. It would be considered unwise to bring different animals from New South Wales to be released in the Northern Territory. There would be no objection in principle to the importation of kangaroo meat for human consumption if health and quarantine requirements were met. Such meat is not available at present

although trials for export are being undertaken. If a demand for such importation was made from Aboriginal communities in the Territory, the matter could be taken up by the Conservation Commission and the Department of Primary Production. I am informed that it would be possible to restock the Tiwi islands with live agile wallabies from the Top End if they are as satisfactory as New South Wales kangaroos. I would think that a Northern Territory live agile wallaby would be worth 2 New South Wales kangaroos.

1492 Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

I pursue the matter of the recent TIO purchase. Is the minister aware that lots 2191 and 2192 in Smith Street, which are in the same locality as land purchased recently by the TIO, have been for sale for some months for \$300,000 and, if so, why did the Territory Insurance Office not attempt to purchase these 2 lots?

ANSWER

I could not say that they did not attempt to purchase the lots. It seems a rather odd question. If the lots were for sale, they would not have to attempt to purchase them; they could merely purchase them provided they felt that the price versus the siting constituted a reasonable proposition. I do not feel that I can answer the honourable member's question.

1494 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Did the Kailis company seek assistance from the Northern Territory government over the last 12 months? If so, in what form and what, if any, assistance was given?

ANSWER

The Kailis company sought assistance from the Territory Development Corporation. I indicated yesterday that the requirements of the corporation had not been met so that the full assessment of the proposal could be completed. There was no indication at any time that assistance would not be forthcoming. The matter had been considered on one occasion by the corporation. It certainly had not come through the Cabinet for final consideration.

1495 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

What power does the Department of Health have over keeping livestock in the rural area?

ANSWER

The primary responsibility for looking after animals in the rural area is not the responsibility of the Department of Health. However, the department has the responsibility for general sanitation, mosquito prevention, rat exclusion and prevention, and regulations relating to public health. If the holding of animals in the rural area came into conflict with any of those regulations which are the prerogative of the Health Department, then the department has an involvement in that sense.

1496 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware that the Housing Commission is writing to Housing Commission tenants advising them that, unless they mow the grass on their footpaths, the commission will do it and charge the tenants for the cost? If he is aware of this fact, would he issue instructions that the practice cease forthwith?

ANSWER

I can assure the honourable member for Nightcliff that I will do exactly that. I was alarmed to learn this morning that the commission has been hoodwinked by the Darwin City Council into believing that the responsibility for mowing footpaths rests with the ratepayer concerned. As the Housing Commission is the ratepayer in regard to its rental houses, it felt that it was obliged to encourage its tenants to mow these lawns. I would like to make it very clear here that the responsibility to mow footpaths will stay where it belongs with the city council in Darwin. I have already given instructions to the Housing Commission to withdraw the notices to mow footpaths that have been served on persons. It will certainly not continue sending further notices. We will be corresponding with the corporation on the matter to make our feelings very clear to them.

1497 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

What is the position of the present appointment of a doctor at Jabiru

East? What are future plans of the Department of Health regarding another appointment?

ANSWER

I understand that the doctor that was posted to Jabiru recently resigned. The department has had some difficulty finding a person to fill the position permanently or on a long-term basis. We have started advertising overseas to try to recruit staff. At this stage, it would appear that the filling of the position at Jabiru will be as difficult as filling the ones at Groote and Tennant Creek. The problem is always professional isolation. However, we will be working to solve the problem as soon as possible.

1498 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

My question touches on problems previously raised by the Arnold Report and then again in an article in the Star this morning. Is it true that some workers at Ranger have not been issued with radiation detection devices? Is it further true that some workers at Ranger have not been given medical examinations? Is it further true that some workers at Ranger have not been warned of health problems on site? If these things are true, will the minister assure the House that these problems will be rectified instantly.

ANSWER

I can give the honourable member an assurance that the matter will be looked into forthwith. In the time available to us today, I would not be able to report back to him before lunch when we are likely to adjourn. I can give him an undertaking that the matters will be investigated and I will report to him in writing at the first opportunity.

1499 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

My question relates to the urgent need to commence redevelopment of the Dhupuma College. Is he aware of widespread concern by the East Arnhem community about the possible adverse effects of relocating the college closer to Nhulunbuy and of the anxiety for an urgent decision on the future of the college? If so, what information can the minister give the House?

ANSWER

I am indeed aware of the expressions of concern by a wide range of people, teachers included, at Dhupuma College as to the location and the government commitment to the future of Dhupuma College. Having regard to the complexity of this matter, it would be best left until next week when I propose making a full statement to the House outlining the government's intentions.

1500 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The old museum block situated in Smith Street is in a disgraceful mess. There is long grass and coffee bush growing all over the place. Has a decision been made on the future use of that particular block and when can he have the lawnmowers moved in to have this long grass and coffee bush removed?

ANSWER

I will take all steps to have the block cleared up as soon as possible. As I understand it, some \$50,000 has been made available for minor repairs to protect what rooms are there at the moment. I was unaware that the block was in a shambles and I will ask the department to take steps to rectify that immediately.

1501 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I trust the honourable minister has had time to check his correspondence since yesterday. When did the minister reach an agreement with his federal colleagues as to the alteration in the disposal of the \$257,000 Schools Commission grant and can the minister give the House an assurance that such grants in future will be given a separate allocation in the budget?

ANSWER

It is true that the allocations of the Schools Commission should normally warrant a separate mention in the budgetary papers. I was somewhat disappointed with the media treatment of the debate. I am quite sure that even the honourable member for Arnhem would not have thought that it was quite fair. I expect that it had nothing to do with the journalist who reported the debate. It was probably the result of trying to squash an article into a newspaper. The easiest way to do that is to omit half the debate and thereby give a completely distorted view. That would have happened in the subediting department and would not have been caused by the person who prepared the article.

Let me cover the exact expenditures involved in this matter of the Schools Commission funds. As I said yesterday, the entire basis of the allegations of the honourable member for Arnhem were completely without foundation. It is a shame that that never got through to the public. I will just give some figures of expenditure by this government with School Commission funds and with its own significant additional funds in the areas of disadvantaged schools both urban and country. Mr Speaker, the 5 declared principal schools that were originally envisaged were Nightcliff High, Alice Springs High, Rapid Creek Primary School, Primary and Berrimah Primary School. It was agreed with the Schools Commission and the federal minister - I do not have the dates of correspondence as I still have not dug those out - at an early date that they were schools of disadvantage. Negotiations were carried out right from the outset when my department was a whole one month old. While of course there is a very strict onus on government to carry out the rules of the game, the document from which the honourable member was reading yesterday detailed recommendations not dictated. We realised that, if we were going to get a program going forthwith for the disadvantaged schools in the Northern Territory, there would be absolutely no prospect of going through all of the recommendations required by the Schools Commission. We entered into negotiations forthwith so that the program of spending this money on schools could be commenced forthwith instead of worrying about bureaucratic rules.

For those identified schools for the period of 1980, which is the main one the honourable member was talking about, the expenditure approved by the committee - the one he said we had not referred to - with the exception of Rapid Creek Primary School where a problem with the home

liaison officer has now been resolved, a total of \$137,000. I will not go through the detailed breakup but it is available to the honourable member. I would suspect he has already got the figures. So the expenditure is \$137,500. In respect of services and development identified for 1980, it is \$125,000. In addition to that, for disadvantaged non-government schools identified for 1980, it is \$7,500. For disadvantaged country areas identified for 1980, it is \$112,000. For children in residential institutions, again for disadvantaged areas identified for 1980, it is \$12,500 and for multi-cultural education for disadvantaged areas, it is \$21,500. If the honourable member wants to do some arithmetic, he will find that we have not only spent the \$257,000 of the Commonwealth allocation through the Schools Commission with the approval of the schools commission and the federal minister, indeed, this government has significantly added to those figures.

1502 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What are the agricultural programs currently in operation and planned in the future for prisons in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

We have an agricultural program out at Gunn Point. Unfortunately, that is being evaluated at the moment because of the lack of water. However, the government is at the moment investigating other sites in the Darwin area for a prison farm. At the same time, I will be taking a proposal to my Cabinet colleagues to establish a prison farm in the Alice Springs area. At the moment, the only crop that has been successfully grown at Gunn Point was a good peanut crop last year. They were able to produce enough vegetables in the salad lines to supply the Darwin area prisons but, until such time as the water problem is resolved at Gunn Point, I am in no position to give the member any further information.

1503 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has he noticed any increase in the incidence of road accidents on the Arnhem Highway and, if so, what does he propose to do about it?

ANSWER

I have not got any information on the Arnhem Highway in front of me so I ask that the question be placed on notice.

1504 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware that a highly successful hydroponics program was underway at the Gunn Point prison farm? The only reason it stopped was to enlarge the area. Can he give an assurance to this House that money will be made available to allow the enlargement to go ahead so that the hydroponics program can progress?

ANSWER

Yes, I am aware of the successful hydroponics plant system out at Gunn Point but, unfortunately, I cannot give the honourable member an assurance that further funds will be made available because, as I just said a few moments ago, Gunn Point is under question because of the water supply out there.

1505 Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

Is the Treasurer able to indicate progress in the Territory Loan No 3 which commenced on 14 April?

ANSWER

I do not have specific details of the amount raised to date of the Northern Territory Loan No 3 which closes on 2 May. However, I am informed that it is going very successfully and, as the Chief Minister suggested, as solid as the rock. There is every indication that the loan will be fully subscribed as were the Northern Territory government Loans Nos 1 and 2. The loan which is out at the present time offers a very attractive 11.7% interest rate. We believe that it will be fully subscribed and the government's program will be met.

1506 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he advise the House of the current status of the proposal to rehabilitate the Rum Jungle mine?

ANSWER

I did not have a perennial answer for the honourable member prepared so I will endeavour to obtain the information and give it to him on Tuesday next week.

1507 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In the answer that he just gave me regarding agricultural programs, he omitted any mention of the Berrimah prison farm. What agricultural programs are currently in operation or planned for the Berrimah prison farm?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to place the question on notice.

1508 Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it the policy of the Northern Territory government to construct its own office accommodation or to encourage private enterprise development? Is it a fact that the Northern Territory government is constructing or about to announce the construction of 4 new premises for the Housing Commission, Police headquarters, TIO and Electricity Commission.

ANSWER

It is the policy of the Northern Territory government to find such accommodation for public service requirements in the Northern Territory as is best in all the particular circumstances at the time. Approximately 50% of the Northern Territory Public Service at present is accommodated in government office buildings inherited by the Territory government from the Commonwealth. I am only giving my estimations because I certainly do not have figures for this from the Public Service Commissioner who has the responsibility for finding accommodation for the Northern Territory Public Service. I would say that another 50% of the public service is accommodated in buildings such as the Palmerston



Building, which was erected by the AMP society, and in buildings such as the City Mutual Insurance, the Royal Globe Insurance and the new building on the Esplanade called Minerals House which now houses the Department of Mines and Energy. I understand that building is owned by the public service superannuation fund as is the Hooker building which also has its share of public servants located in it.

Of the 45 bodies mentioned by the honourable member for Port Darwin, 3 of them are statutory authorities. The Housing Commission announced 2 years ago that it is building a new headquarters at Casuarina. The actual foundations have been dug and quite a bit of concrete has been poured. I think you can see the rough outline of the building itself out beside the Casuarina Shopping Centre. I seem to recall the Minister for Lands and Housing saying in this House a very long time ago that the funds for that construction came from a surplus of insurance moneys received by the commission at the time of the cyclone. It was really a windfall and it requested that it be allowed to use it to construct its headquarters at Casuarina.

We then considered a new police headquarters. I am informed the present police headquarters is inadequate and the police have been negotiating through the Public Service Commissioner and appropriate people in an attempt to have a satisfactory headquarters building provided. There were negotiations with at least one private organisation to build a new police headquarters building. Unfortunately, the arrangements could not be satisfactorily made because the police have particular requirements. If the police were to give up the lease of the building at any time, a private entrepreneur might well be left with a building that was unsuitable for leasing to any other organisation.

That is the only government direct instrumentality that I think was mentioned. The Territory Insurance Office is required to operate as near as possible on the same terms as any commercial insurance organisation. It has an investment policy. I think the honourable member for Sanderson asked some questions about a block of land that the TIO bought in Darwin. I understand that this building is proposed by the TIO for that particular block of land. I do not think the government should dictate to the TIO what its investment policy will be but, at the same time, the TIO cannot expect the government to come in as a tenant of any of its buildings. If it wants the government as a tenant, it will have to compete with private enterprise. We appointed a board of the TIO that consists of men experienced in commerce and in actuary. Presumably, this is what they have come up with as one of their first and presumably prime investments. Many other insurance companies invest in real estate and there is nothing very startling in that.

Finally, I think we came to the Northern Territory Electricity Commission. It is true that the Northern Territory Electricity Commission has ambitions to build a headquarters of its own in the old railway yards where it has most of its workshops these days. The rationale of the Electricity Commission is that it believes the white collar workers should be on the same location as the blue collar workers and that they mix together. The important thing that the principal commissioner believes is to establish an esprit de corps within the commission itself. I believe electricity authorities throughout Australia and throughout the world regard themselves as fairly exclusive organisations and apparently this is their rationale. I think they have had one go at the Town Planning

Tribunal to obtain an approval of the site in the railway yard at Salonika and they came away with their fingers burnt. It may well be that they will be having another go in a different way. The police must have an adequate headquarters and, if they do have to move out of their Mitchell and Bennett Street headquarters, there certainly will not be any fewer people accommodated there. It is simply that the Darwin Police Station is outgrowing the space in the building available to it. The whole headquarters and police station buildings will be needed for the Darwin Police Station. There will not be any movement of people out of the city area.

I understand there are thoughts at the moment that the headquarters may well be sited down near that new powerhouse at Berrimah. That appears to be a fairly logical position for it when you consider that there will be a new city built which I understand is called Palmerston by my colleague the Minister for Lands and Housing. I do not think there is any reason for the honourable member for Port Darwin to be concerned at the possible construction of office accommodation by some of these authorities. I think there is particular justification in each case and I do not believe that it would mean the removal of any significant numbers of people from the city of Darwin. With the considerable additional amount of private construction going on in the city area at present, it is obvious that people will fill those buildings. I can see the Darwin city area thriving. Indeed, every day you drive down the street, you see the foundations of another building starting. It seems to me that the city area, with the construction of the mall and plans going ahead for parking stations and the like, is really coming alive and becoming the commercial heart of the Territory and of this city.

1509 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Why did the Education Department adult education section assist the Noranda Uranium Mining Company to prepare pro-uranium booklets for Aboriginal communities? Will this practice of the Department of Education assisting uranium mining companies to prepare their propaganda for Aboriginal communities continue?

ANSWER

The honourable gentleman has just made an allegation and I have no doubt he wants the media to print it as a statement of fact. Nonetheless, I know nothing of what the honourable gentleman says. I must say it is rather interesting that the honourable member should raise this yet he has never raised the numerous allegations that have been made in the past about certain government instrumentalities aiding and abetting his side in the anti-uranium campaign. This seems to demonstrate to me a rather split sense of values. I certainly know nothing of it. It is not the role of any adult education service to be either pro or anti uranium mining. Adult educators have been known to be involved in the dissemination of fact and the assistance of understanding and I see that as a reasonable role as long as it does not become for or against. They are not in the business of advocacy. The guidelines set down by the department for the modus operandi of adult educators in communities are very firm, very clear and very precise. As minister, I certainly expect that the departmental officers will insist that those guidelines are adhered to. It is certainly not the policy of this government that departments and agencies within government should be used for this

sort of propaganda at all.

1510 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is legislation pending or being considered to regulate the pet meat industry?

ANSWER

Because of the recent incidence of pet meat going interstate and subsequently being found to be substandard, we are looking at a complete overhaul of the legislation and of the procedures involved with the slaughter and inspection of pet met.

1511 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The other day in the House he stated that, of the 80 points of the log of claims served by prison officers, 63 had been resolved. Would he table in the House next week details of the 63 points in the log of claims which have been resolved?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would be reluctant to table them in the House but I have no objection to the honourable member for Nightcliff having a look at them.

1516 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can the minister inform the House as to whether the joint study between the Northern Territory and Australian governments into the feasibility of the continuation of the railway line from Alice Springs to Darwin has been completed and, if so, will he make public the document as suggested it would be by the Chief Minister?

ANSWER

The report in question is not before the government at the present time. I would suggest that the government would want to consider its position in respect of negotiations with the Commonwealth and decide at that time whether to make the Report public to everybody.

1517 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the plan of management devised by the national parks service for the Kakadu Park being made public yet and, if so, why have I not received a copy as the Kakadu Park is in my electorate? Has a copy of this paper been sent to the Sessional Committee for the Environment?

ANSWER

I am not responsible for the Kakadu Park plan of management because it has been prepared by the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service. However, I do understand that it has been made public and is open for comment. Distribution of the document, I again emphasise, is the responsibility of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service. We endeavoured to ascertain the extent of distribution but a representative of that service in Darwin was unable to advise of the extent but has certainly promised to mail a copy to the honourable member for Tiwi. I do not know whether a copy has been sent to the Sessional Committee on the Environment but no doubt the secretary of that committee can take the matter up direct with the ANPWS.

1518 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I must preface my question briefly by saying that, on visiting a prisoner on Sunday, I was instructed by the guards not to discuss with the prisoner matters relating to prisons, prison administration or the Prisons Bill before the Assembly. On whose instructions were these edicts issued? What is the purpose of issuing such instructions and is this the minister's policy?

ANSWER

I was not aware that the prison officers were advised not to speak to the honourable member for Nightcliff. However, I find it a bit strange to understand by virtue of the fact that the honourable member has been out to the Berrimah prison on several occasions. I am quite sure that the prison officers have been courteous on most occasions and, if the director has issued such a directive to prison officers . . .

Mrs Lawrie: The minister has misunderstood my question. The prison officers advised me that I was not to discuss with the prisoner who I was visiting any matters relating to prisons, prison administration or legislation dealing with prisoners.

Mr DONDAS: I will endeavour to find out the information she requires and supply it to her at a later date.

1519 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has Tracy Lodge applied to have meals on wheels prepared at the lodge itself instead of at Casuarina Hospital where they are presently prepared and, if so, will the government be supporting its application?

ANSWER

I am aware that the Department of Health has recently taken over the funding and preparation of the meals for the meals on wheels organisation right throughout the Territory wherever it has been possible. The department has also moved to coordinate and rationalise the operation so that it is as cost effective as possible. If the honourable member is advising me that an independent organisation is prepared to undertake the preparation of meals on wheels in conjunction with the Health Department or by way of separate funding, I am not aware of such a proposal. I have no fixed opinion on whether it should be so and I would like to seek the advice of the department on the matter before we proceed any further with it.

1520 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

The minister will be aware of community concern about recent loadings of live cattle at Darwin wharf. What action is the minister taking to ensure that future live cattle loadings will be better managed?

ANSWER

This has been a problem for the last 2 seasons - last year during the dry season and with the commencement of cattle loading for live shipment overseas this year. In my discussions with the Port Authority and the people handling the stock, it seems that further modifications must take place on the race. I am aware that there is a cost factor involved but I am assured that the required modifications will take place. However, there are always some difficulties with the handling of feral animals. Some of these cattle come straight out of traps where they have been mustered into by helicopters and there is some difficulty in asking them to restrain themselves from rushing around yards. On many occasions, these animals hurt themselves.

1521 Mr VALE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Can he advise what action is being taken to provide councils with bylaws?

ANSWER

The subject of bylaws with the councils has been rather a complex issue. Discussions have been taking place between the Department of Community Development, the legislative draftsman and the local government associations for about 4 months. I believe that the draft bylaws are ready for circulation to Cabinet to ensure that they do proceed as quickly as possible.

1522 Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Who will be responsible for the provision of sites for schools in areas

of Sanderson which have recently been leased for private subdivision?

ANSWER

The government will be responsible for the allocation of sites to the Department of Education for the construction of schools or the allocation of sites to private organisations for the construction of schools associated with other public open space that will be incorporated in designs for private subdivision in the northern suburbs of Darwin. Fortunately, through the activities of government, we have a range of very experienced developers involved in turning out new subdivisions for Darwin. The sites that are required for public use will be taken over by the government and will be allocated in the usual way.

1523 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is the government planning legislation to control the keeping of bees in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The question of regulation of the bee industry has not come before us yet. Any industry group may submit to government that their industry needs regulation for various reasons. I would not foresee in the near future that regulations or legislation would come before the government for consideration on this matter.

1524 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

As it is fairly obvious that the question of the Collia mines dispute is not sub judice, could he advise the House what steps he is taking to resolve this dispute?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to put that question on notice. I do not have the information at the moment.

1525 Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has any decision been made on the future of 'Big Al's' as yet?

ANSWER

I understand that the member for Port Darwin is referring to the cafeteria on the ground floor of the Chan Building. As far as I am aware, the Chief Minister's Department is attempting to draft new tender terms for the cafeteria because, on the last occasion it was put out to tender, there were absolutely no takers. It appears that there may be some difficulties in having the cafeteria operational. Apparently, this is due to lack of interest by the private sector.

1526 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he confirm that, on occasions over the past couple of weeks, untreated sewage has been pumped into Ludmilla Creek from the central zone treatment plant because there is insufficient staff at the plant? What action has been taken to ensure that that problem will be resolved urgently?

ANSWER

I am unable to confirm that information. However, it sounds an urgent matter and I will seek the information without delay.

1527 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can he say whether schools in the areas of Sanderson which have recently been leased for private subdivision will be constructed concurrently with dwellings in those areas?

ANSWER

Obviously the department is in the process of doing demographic studies. The idea of schools timing with communities is such as to ensure that there is never a circumstance whereby an increase in population causes a disproportionate number of students in any one school. The department and the government indeed would be working towards contemporaneous construction of schools such as to ensure that there is no excess pupils in any individual schools as a result of growth in population or increases over the normally accepted pupil-teacher ratios.

1528 Mr VALE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Can he advise when the new Dog Act will come into force?

ANSWER

The drafting of regulations is almost complete and it is hoped that the regulations and the Dog Act will be brought together by the end of May.

1529 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that the Unemployed Workers Union, the women's electoral lobby and the anti-uranium group are required to have their material approved by the Minister for Community Development before they are allowed to use the photocopying facilities of the Community Access Centre?

ANSWER

It is not true. However, the access centre is there to provide photocopying services and other small secretarial duties to community organisations operating in the Darwin area. In fact, access centres have been set up throughout the whole of the Northern Territory. There are some stipulations. Political organisations are not to use the access centre. Some church organisations are unable to use the access centre as well. The only material that the church organisations can circulate is material of information to their members and not about the particular faith that they believe in. As far as the organisations mentioned by the honourable member, I wish to be informed of the number of copies and type of information that those organisations are using the access centre for.

1530 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he inform the House when the joint study between the Federal and Territory governments on the railway link between Alice Springs and

Darwin will be available?

ANSWER

The short answer is no.

1531 Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

It has been claimed in several newspaper reports that the declaration of dry areas around some Aboriginal communities is forcing drinkers into town where they are causing many social problems. Are these reports true and, if so, what is the Liquor Commission proposing to do about it?

ANSWER

I am aware of allegations particularly in the southern half of the Territory where various groups have suggested that there has been a migration of Aboriginals into town simply to get liquor as a result of the declaration of dry areas.

I have taken this matter up with the Liquor Commission because it would certainly be defeating the purpose of the commission's intentions if this were the case. The Liquor Commissioner has advised me that the commission is watching very carefully this particular matter. It is aware of the suggestion that Aboriginals are migrating into town areas but it pointed out that this migration has been going since 1968 or whenever it was that Aboriginals attained access to alcohol. The problem is not new but it may be, in some cases, exacerbated by the declaration of dry areas. The commission has pointed out that there is no foundation in the suggestion at this stage and is purely comment from people in the respective communities.

The commission also indicated that, to this stage, it has only declared 6 dry areas throughout the Territory and that was prior to anything it did in the last 48 hours. It is very early at this stage for the commission to know whether these declarations have in fact caused a trend that will remain permanent or whether the migration into the respective communities as a result of the dry areas is just a knee-jerk reaction by some people in those communities. The commission has taken the stance at this stage that it will endeavour to see that the object of the dry areas is not thwarted by various groups in the community. It will monitor it as time goes on and it believes it is in a position to take directive action if necessary.

1532 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he indicate when he expects the Fannie Bay connector road to be open to vehicular traffic?

ANSWER

I thought I replied to this very same question last week. Nothing has crossed my desk since to indicate a change to that position.

1533 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that the Minister for Community Development has told the Environment Council that it cannot use the access centre facilities on



the ground that it receives funding from the Northern Territory government?

ANSWER

I cannot recall giving that particular directive but I will explain why we set up an access centre. The access centre was set up to help small organisations that did not have the funds to buy duplicating or photocopying machines. The Environment Council has been operating for many years in the Northern Territory. It receives funding from both the Northern Territory and Commonwealth governments and, if that organisation cannot get its act together, there is no reason why it should be using the access centre.

1534 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware that the Environment Council does not any longer receive funding from the Northern Territory government and this has been the case for some considerable time?

ANSWER

I ask the member to place the question on notice.

1535 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

The Housing Commission has been upgrading houses owned by the commission for a number of years. There are still some houses owned by the commission in my electorate that require upgrading. Could he inform me if this program of upgrading is nearing completion?

ANSWER

I cannot give the honourable member details of exactly how many houses remain to be completely cyclone-proofed in the Housing Commission's restoration program. I certainly know that there has been a great deal done over the last few years but I cannot quite recall how many houses have been completed and how many there are to go. I will obtain the information and pass it on to the honourable member.

1536 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it true that the Northern Territory government has been negotiating with Mr Wally Bradley of Western Australia to establish prawn processing operations on Groote Eylandt? If so, how long have these negotiations been going on?

ANSWER

I am not aware of negotiations between the department and Mr Bradley from Western Australia. The department could be discussing a proposal with the gentleman concerned but the information has not come to me.

1537 Mrs O'NEIL to TREASURER

Can he advise whether there are any plans to move the overseas telecommunications station in Fannie Bay?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any particular moves or any approaches that have been made to the federal government by the Northern Territory Department of Lands and Housing to relocate the facility. It probably would not be a bad idea to have it somewhere else but I am unaware of any current moves.

1538 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Could he advise the House of the rationale behind the publishing of new guidelines for the bilingual program in Northern Territory schools?

ANSWER

I am in the process of having a statement prepared in the light of comments that have been made recently by teachers who conduct these very worthwhile programs. In order that the air be properly cleared as to what is happening in that area, it would probably be best if I made a brief statement. I will probably circulate that this afternoon.

ANSWER TO QUESTION

1535 Mr STEELE (Transport and Works): The honourable member for Nightcliff asked me whether it is intended to bring forward regulations concerning amateur fishing and fishermen in the Northern Territory. My reply was that it is not the government's intention to bring forward regulations in respect of amateur fishermen at present. I must confess that that was slightly misleading in that the draftsmen are currently preparing regulations in respect of fishing controls but the actual licensing component will not be included in those regulations.

1541 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Does he recall being reported in the NT News on 28 March as saying that the Alice Springs to Darwin railway feasibility study will be released in 2 or 3 weeks? In view of the answer given to me yesterday by the Minister of Transport and Works, can he tell the Assembly what has occurred to make his statement in March inoperative.

ANSWER

I am very pleased that the Leader of the Opposition has given me the opportunity to perhaps clear away some of the obscurity, doubts and persiflage that he has been attempting to raise about the government's attitude towards the completion of the Alice Springs Darwin rail link and also the doubt he has been casting on the Commonwealth government's attitude to the completion of this vital developmental, social and defence link for the Territory. Everybody knows that the completion of a rail link to Darwin must have a very beneficial effect on the cost of living in the Territory by reason of a fact that rail freight will be in competition with road transport. Obviously, moving freight in such bulk as only a railway can do must have a downward effect on freight costs and hence the cost of living in the Territory.

On information provided to me, I have indicated that this feasibility study would be ready on a number of occasions and, each time I have been given a date, I have been given reasons why the study cannot be ready by the particular date. At this time, I am not prepared to indicate when the feasibility study will be ready although I believe it will be ready in the near future. As far as I am concerned, as soon as it has been considered by Cabinet, and with the concurrence of the Commonwealth government or perhaps even without their concurrence, we will release it to the public because the public of the Territory are the people concerned with this. It is an extremely complex question and we have been going to great lengths of research to establish that this railway line will be economical at the time it can be constructed. It has certainly not been the Commonwealth's fault that the feasibility study has been late in coming out. It has been a result of indefatigable research and hard work on the part of the people representing the Northern Territory in this team which is putting together the feasibility study. I would think that every member of this House and every resident of the Northern Territory would want the Northern Territory government to do the best possible job in putting together this feasibility study. To my mind, there is absolutely no more important task being undertaken at the present time bar none by the Northern Territory government.

I can assure the House that, as soon as this feasibility study is ready, and I believe it will be ready soon, then it will be considered by Cabinet. It will be released then to the public provided the Commonwealth government has no major objection and I cannot see why they should. The Northern Territory government will then continue to go to bat for the completion of this length from Alice Springs to Darwin which was promised by the Commonwealth 70 years or more ago when the Territory was handed over from South Australia. I would ask all good Territorians and all people who have the interests of the Territory at heart to get behind us on this issue to see that maximum pressure from the Territory is applied to the Commonwealth government to expend an amount in the order of \$400m. We are not talking about peanuts and we would hope that party political wrangles would not enter into this particular issue.

1542 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What is the current situation regarding the proposed development of the Marrara sports complex?

ANSWER

Quite a lot of work has been done out at Marrara in the last 6 months by the city council and \$100,000 has been made available to them by the Northern Territory government to commence design work in that area. However, I believe that we are running into problems with Marrara by virtue of the fact that Telecom has some cables there which may have to be relocated at substantial cost.

The council has indicated to the various sporting organisations in the Darwin area their intention to give them a piece of land out there for the development of their sport. Most of the organisations have been informed and have accepted the council's offer and I believe they are gradually working on development plans for their own sites. Until the next financial year, it will be a bit difficult to ascertain what the cost is going to be because the council is still doing a feasibility study in relation to what transport and works funding might be required.

1543 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has the decision now been made as to whether Northern Airlines will take over or be involved in the operation of the Northern Territory Aerial Medical Service?

ANSWER

The short answer to the question is no.

1544 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Conservation Commission given any thought to the allotting of certain areas of land under their control, where feral animals live in large numbers, to the instituting of a licensing procedure to genuine game shooters?

ANSWER

I have received information from the Conservation Commission which I am very pleased to represent in this Assembly. The commission has not considered it desirable to open any of its existing park and reserve areas to licensed game shooters to harvest feral or native animals because of conflict which would arise with existing park use and planning for future management. However, the commission does recognise that hunting is a legitimate recreational activity with substantial community support. The commission believes that game reserves, within which licensed hunting of both feral and certain native wildlife could take place, should be established. Such game reserves would not only provide areas of public land where shooters could legally hunt for game but the wildlife habitat in such areas would be carefully managed by the commission for the long-term benefit of not only the harvested species but for all other native plants and animals as well.

For the present, the commission has not identified or acquired any

specific areas for gazettal as game reserves but it is interested in moving in that direction.

1545 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

This question refers specifically to his circulated amendments to the Prisons Bill before the House at the moment. Amendment 178.35 deals with the passage of documents from a prisoner to his legal representative. I ask him if this particular amendment has been circulated to the Law Society or their opinions sought in any way?

ANSWER

I thought that the member would have waited until the committee stage of the bill before asking the question. However, I will state to her that I have not circulated that amendment to the Law Society or sought their opinions.

1546 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When is it expected that construction of the Bagot Road-Stuart Highway overpass will be commenced?

ANSWER

The tenders have been invited from selected qualified companies for this project. Those tenders will close in May and it is expected that construction will commence late in July-August.

1547 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Can the minister tell me when will mandatory date-stamping of foodstuffs be introduced into the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The government is proceeding with the drafting of instructions and the preparation of regulations under the Weights and Measures of Packaged Goods Act along the lines of New South Wales regulations.

1548 Mr OLIVER to CHIEF MINISTER

Whilst I appreciate the subject of my question is properly a matter for the federal government, I ask the Chief Minister what assistance, if any, can his government render to those Northern Territory Vietnam veterans who may be affected by the defoliant Agent Orange?

ANSWER

I do appreciate that this question relates to a matter that arises out of the area of defence which is properly the responsibility of the federal government. No doubt, the rehabilitation of veterans who may be affected adversely as a result of their time in the armed services is also the responsibility of the federal government. However, these people are also citizens of the Northern Territory if indeed there are such people in the Territory. I understand there was a public meeting held some time ago of Vietnam war veterans to see whether there were any in the Territory who believed that they may have been adversely

affected by Agent Orange.

It is not for me to comment on the matter of Agent Orange because I believe that the federal government is going to carry out some sort of medical survey of every person who ever went to Vietnam. This survey will take quite a long time to complete. Whilst I appreciate that such a delay is very frustrating, it seems to me that a medical survey is far better than a judicial one because, as a lawyer, I do not really think that judges are the best assessors of how Agent Orange worked its effects on people's genes or otherwise. If people have been adversely affected and have established this in the Veterans Affairs Department, they should be eligible for a TPI pension. I believe my colleague, the Minister for Community Development, would have some role at least in relation to this matter because there are quite generous pensioner benefits available in the Territory and I do not think that these are restricted to any one class of pensioners. For example, I believe that one can obtain quite a substantial rebate of electricity accounts, water accounts, motor vehicle registration fees and the like. I believe the pensioner card entitles one to free passage on the NTA buses in Darwin. If these people have been able to establish eligibility as TPI pensioners, then presumably they would be eligible for those benefits.

1549 Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

There are many property owners in all of our electorates who have made a genuine effort to clear their properties of long grass and debris before the coming of the dry season. However, there are many properties still to be cleared. What is the government doing to make property owners clear their blocks of long grass and rubbish?

ANSWER

This matter is of some interest to me as I have always been concerned at the state of unkempt properties and indeed unkempt public space in Darwin. It has been of some concern that efforts by the Department of Lands and Housing serving notices on landowners requiring them, under the terms of the Darwin Town Area Leases Act, to maintain their properties have not been very successful. I understand that we have not proceeded to date to prosecute in this regard as there is some doubt as to whether such prosecutions would succeed. I believe the role of maintenance of a city and encouraging its citizens to maintain their properties belongs to local government and indeed local government I understand has the powers to execute those functions. The bylaws do provide the corporation with an ability to serve notice on landowners to clean up properties that are believed to be in a state that is possibly deleterious to the community and indeed even to move onto such properties and clean them up themselves and bill the landowner. I notice that the corporation has not undertaken that course of action itself. I undertake to ask them exactly why it has not taken that course of action and whether it will.

1550 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I am pleased to hear that the minister is concerned about unkempt open space in Darwin. My question refers to unkempt open space in Darwin, specifically to lot 4543 Town of Nightcliff in the Coconut Grove area which was used as a dump after the cyclone. I understand this is crown

land. Will the minister undertake to have this area of crown land cleared for the benefit of nearby residents in the Coconut Grove area?

ANSWER

This government has adopted the policy that, where honourable members provide me or the Department of Lands and Housing with information about lots of crown land which they believe should be cleaned up, I will undertake to have such land inspected and indeed cleaned up. There are funds available for this purpose and I am not sure if the honourable member for Fannie Bay has made representation through the normal administrative channels to have this work done or not. I have made a note of the number and I will pass it on to the department.

1551 Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise if and when a resident magistrate will be appointed for Katherine?

ANSWER

This matter came to my attention when I was in Katherine recently. I was speaking to a court official there and also to the sergeant of police who was acting in place of the inspector who was absent on a training course. I forget how many days a week or a fortnight a magistrate visits Katherine from Darwin at present. I must say that it is not something that cheers one up to find that courts are doing more business rather than less. Perhaps that is an indication of the efficiency of the Northern Territory Police Force. I thought that Katherine should perhaps have a resident magistrate of its own who could also service and become familiar with communities in the Victoria River and Elsey areas where courts presently sit and where the government, with the full support of all members of this Assembly, is attempting to involve Aboriginal people in the administration of justice in their communities as much as possible.

It is impossible at the moment to say when a resident magistrate will be appointed to Katherine. It would probably be unfair of us to require any of the existing magistrates to move to Katherine as they were appointed on the basis that their appointment would be to either Darwin or Alice Springs. Perhaps one of them would be willing to live in Katherine. I cannot understand why anyone would not want to live in that fair city on the banks of that fine river but, having settled comfortably in Darwin or Alice Springs, the magistrates may not want to be taken out of their pursuits in those 2 places although it is permissible to transfer them under the conditions from one or other of those 2 places.

I am having the Solicitor-General undertake a survey as to whether the court work at Katherine would justify a permanent resident magistrate. If it does, then it will be possible in the not too far distant future to base a magistrate there because additional work is going to be undertaken on the Katherine Court House, if my memory serves me correctly, to upgrade it to accommodate not only Magistrates Courts but Supreme Courts. I think that it is the intention of the Supreme Court to sit in places such as Katherine in the future when work has been carried out such as the provision of jury rooms and other appendages required to enable a Supreme Court to go on circuit and bring the administration of justice closer to the communities that are involved.

Without making any firm commitment, it is certainly the governments view that, as and when it is warranted, magistrates should be based in centres such as Katherine, Tennant Creek and Gove. It may not be that any of the current magistrates can be based there unless they are willing to go but, as work builds up, obviously the workload in Darwin, especially when the act comes into operation to increase the jurisdiction of the Magistrates Court, it may well be necessary to employ more magistrates on the basis that they will take up residence in Katherine, Tennant Creek or wherever.

1552 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has consideration been given by his department to a suggestion that peak hour priority lanes be established on Bagot Road and the Stuart Highway for the carriage of buses and private vehicles carrying 3 or more persons and, if so, what is the result of this departmental consideration?

ANSWER

I am sure that the department over the years, in considering traffic in and out of the northern suburbs, has considered priority lanes. I have no recent advice as to why they have not suggested the institution of that particular program. Certainly, I was involved in looking at ways of having so many lanes out or creating extra lanes going in other directions, depending on the peak hour itself but it would not be possible with Bagot Road. If I can give the member more information, I will provide it for her.

1553 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Yesterday, he indicated that some regulation of the amateur barramundi fishing industry would be brought forward. Could he indicate the form of those regulations?

ANSWER

I have asked the Secretary of the Department of Primary Production to contact the member for Nightcliff and to discuss the regulations with her and also with the Amateur Fishermen's Association.

1554 Mr BALLANTYNE to CHIEF MINISTER

Can the Chief Minister inform the Assembly of the type and design of warning signs which will be used to inform the general public of the danger of crocodiles at known recreation areas?

ANSWER

As you know, the member for Nhulunbuy has been pursuing the matter of the crocodile menace at Nhulunbuy consistently throughout this session. Naturally, I have referred the matter to the Conservation Commission which has been swift to act and has come forward already with a warning sign which I believe should be intelligible not only to you, Mr Speaker, and honourable members of this House but also to other citizens of the Territory and indeed perhaps also crocodiles. This sign will be placed with the concurrence of the traditional owners and relevant authorities in areas around Nhulunbuy and elsewhere in the Territory where crocodiles may perhaps be a hazard to bathers. We could perhaps put one by the



bank of the Todd River just for the tourists.

I do believe seriously that there may have to be action taken to re-locate some of the crocodiles in the immediate Nhulunbuy area because the numbers are very significantly on the increase I understand. The Conservation Commission will be looking at that. We have had many expressions of concern from that area. Only recently I received a letter from the Gove Amateur Lifesaving Club which is the only life-saving club in the Northern Territory. That club is very concerned at risks to life as a result of the numbers of crocodiles that have been sighted by club members in the area. The Conservation Commission will be, despite the risk and expense, looking at relocating some of the crocodiles that do appear to exist in that area.

1555 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Was the minister at any time and in any capacity involved in negotiations to purchase Doctor's Gully from Karl Atkinson? If so, what were the results of those negotiations?

ANSWER

I do not believe that is a fit and proper question in respect of departmental negotiations for land. I believe the question should be placed on notice.

1556 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the government policy in regard to road signs relating to small local businesses, for example, in country and rural areas?

ANSWER

The road signs policy is about 4 pages. I have not got them in front of me to read them out to the Assembly although it may be very interested. Certainly, our proposal would be to upgrade the signs along the highways to international standards and to improve the signs for the benefit of the travelling public.

1557 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will the report on the alcohol conference which was held in Darwin in February be made available to honourable members at this sittings as the minister suggested in February would happen?

ANSWER

The short answer is yes. I asked my staff to deliver the report to the Clerk yesterday so that it could be placed on the table for the members. I am not sure whether it has come across but they will most certainly have it by tomorrow morning.

1558 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to TREASURER

Could he tell me the government policy regarding rented caravans in backyards in city and town areas?

ANSWER

The government's policy is expressed in the provisions of the Darwin Town Plan which provides that a home owner can have a caravan in his yard in a built up area, controlled by a plan, but such a van is not for rental purposes at all. It can be occupied by the owner's family or visiting friends. As far as the honourable member's question is concerned, our policy towards rented backyard caravans is that this is simply not on. At the moment, the matter is covered by 2 acts. The Caravan Parks Act control areas where 2 or more caravans are used. The Planning and Development Act control matters relating to town planning and I believe this is the more appropriate vehicle for controlling the numbers of caravans in backyards. This matter has been of some concern to us. Fortunately, as a result of pressures that have been exerted over the past 12 months, there has been a considerable reduction in the numbers of backyard caravans and indeed the numbers of complaints from neighbours of persons who have a number of rented caravans in their backyards. And there were notices served on a number of people recently to remove further caravans. Some people have resisted fairly strongly in this regard and the government is proposing to take further action in regard to these people.

1560 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he inform this Assembly of the success or otherwise of the Aboriginal enrolment program being conducted through the Australian Electoral Office?

ANSWER

I do not have a progress report on the program at this stage but I can certainly enlighten honourable members on the steps that have been taken of which I am aware. I do not get a briefing from the officer in charge of electoral matters on a daily basis. In fact, I have not had a briefing from him for several weeks in relation to the matter of the Aboriginal voter enrolment program. I recall that 6 weeks ago a seminar was held at which I understand all adult educators from Aboriginal communities attended. They were briefed by officers of the Australian Electoral Office on Aboriginal voter education and enrolment. So far as I am aware, the Commonwealth Electoral Office has been receiving considerable numbers of applications for enrolment from rural areas. It would seem there could be some connection between the 2 matters.

1561 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

My question concerns concessional rates to pensioners. Is he aware that repatriation pensioners who receive the grand total of a \$146.60 per fortnight have been advised they are not eligible for the concessions offered by his department because they are above the means test? Would he take immediate steps to remedy this?

ANSWER

I have already taken steps to rectify that. I hope to be making a full statement shortly.

1562 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will the Howard Springs turnoff on the Stuart Highway be upgraded?

ANSWER

I have a feeling that I have answered that question before. The proposal is being considered for the 1980-81 capital works program. Unfortunately, I am unable to give the honourable member any projected tender target date.

1563 Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

What progress has been made with allocating land for the siting of an explosives magazine in the Darwin area?

ANSWER

I do not have any information on the particular matter of providing land for a new explosive centre to hand. I would suggest the honourable member place the question on notice.

1564 Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Some time ago, legislation relating to noise was passed in this Assembly.

It was assented to in December last year. Could the Chief Minister please inform the House when this legislation will come into force?

ANSWER

The Administrator was not well on Monday. I had to make a speech in his place. If he is able to sign the necessary instrument, I believe that that particular piece of legislation will come into operation tomorrow.

1565 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can the minister please tell me when we may expect results of a survey on a bus service for Alice Springs which was carried out in the latter part of last year?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the survey carried out at the latter part of last year. I am aware of a program we instituted in February of this year to ascertain the extent to which the bus service may be provided to residents of Alice Springs.

That survey has been fairly inconclusive and the consultants are designing now a further questionnaire to go back to those interested parties to see exactly to what extent the bus service should be provided.

1566 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Would he, as a matter of concern, review the parking problems relating to the pre-school at Nhulunbuy?

ANSWER

I am certainly aware of a significant difficulty in Nhulunbuy pre-school relating to parents putting down and picking up their children. My understanding of the matter is that the location and the design of the school make the solution to the problem a rather complex one. Nonetheless, officers of the department are investigating methods of overcoming this problem. As soon as solutions are found, I am quite certain that the Minister for Transport and Works and I can work out a cash solution to the engineering problem.

1567 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he inform the Assembly of the progress on the consolidation of the criminal code?

ANSWER

If I might just take the time of the House for a couple of minutes. I am very pleased that the honourable Leader of the Opposition has asked me this question. Whilst the criminal code that is proposed could be called a consolidation of the criminal law, it is not only that. It will of necessity involve policy reviews in various areas of the criminal law. The first draft of the proposed code which, I frankly confess, was a rough draft was circulated to the branch after consultation with the lawyers, the law society and a tremendous amount of work by the Department of Law at some time last year. I recall informing members

that there were 4 large typewritten volumes of the first draft of the criminal code which took a tremendous amount of wading through. It is pretty tiring to read that sort of stuff without any relief. It took me some months to wade through it. I am quite certain I could have started again and probably done a much better job. The judges have recently passed back some comments on that first draft to the Solicitor-General who is handling the matter. I understand that a team in the Department of Law is at work on a second draft of the code at the present time. Presumably, when that draft is ready, we will be able to release it to the public by tabling it as a draft discussion document in this Assembly. It would then be available to the people most particularly interested in it, to ourselves as legislators and to the public. I hope that that will take place well within the next 4 months.

1568 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When will a decision be made and announced as to the future use of the former Fannie Bay Gaol?

ANSWER

Soon, Mr Speaker.

1569 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

When is the rehabilitation program for electrical reticulation due for completion?

ANSWER

I assume that the honourable member is talking about the rehabilitation program right over the metropolitan area of Darwin and possibly the rehabilitation being done as a result of the cyclone. This is in its final stages of completion. I believe that the Port Darwin area is just about completed. There are a few minor things to be done in the Stuart Park area. The program for the whole of Darwin should be completed by the end of this year. I would just like to point out to the honourable member that, although the rehabilitation of the power system within the city area is just about complete, continuing maintenance will go on as long as people live here.

1570 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is he yet in a position to answer my question of Tuesday regarding the instructions given to me by prison officers as to what I could and could not discuss with a prisoner?

ANSWER

I had private discussions with the honourable member outside the House and, once again, I will ask her to give to me in writing the dates, the times and which officers refused to let her speak to a prisoner on anything other than of social content.

1571 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the policy of the Northern Territory Fire Brigade regarding the burning-off for a fee this dry in the rural area?

ANSWER

I have been advised that the fire brigade's policy is not to undertake burn-off work. In the past, the system of burning-off for a fee has proved economically unviable. Approximately 50% of the services provided resulted in bad debts or bad payers. In addition, this method of fire prevention cannot be preferred to manual clearing on small blocks or constructing fire-breaks for larger areas. Landowners in the Darwin rural area who are intending to burn-off should obtain permits and advice from the Chief Fire Officer.

1572 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has the Commonwealth government yet signed the Commonwealth-Northern Territory Housing Agreement?

ANSWER

I believe the answer is yes. The Chief Minister signed it on behalf of the Northern Territory in my absence recently. Also, an agreement has been signed with the Commonwealth relating to the provision of special Aboriginal housing.

1573 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can he say when the 12 months interim period, during which hostels formerly owned by Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Services will be administered by that service prior to handing over to the Northern Territory government, be commenced?

ANSWER

Just to clarify the situation, the hostels throughout the Northern Territory are in fact owned by the Northern Territory government now. The honourable member for Fannie Bay referred to an agreement which we have entered into with Commonwealth Accommodation and Catering Services. I do not have with me the specific date that the contract with that group for an initial 12-month period expires. Further information will be provided if the honourable member cares to contact my office.

1574 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LAND and HOUSING

In consideration of the fact that on 3 previous occasions I requested that the terms of the Commonwealth-Northern Territory Housing Agreement be circulated to members of this House and, further, that the minister has agreed to do so and that both ministers have signed that agreement, why has he not yet informed members of the House of the terms of that agreement?

ANSWER

I will have the copy of the agreement forwarded to all members of the Assembly forthwith.

1575 Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can the minister advise whether or not the Liquor Commission proposes to reduce the number of premises licensed to sell liquor in the Northern

Territory?

ANSWER

The Liquor Commission does not have any proposal to reduce the number of liquor outlets in the Territory although, in the decision handed down recently in Alice Springs relating to the granting of a licence to Coles Supermarket, the commissioner made it pretty clear that it would be requiring much more from applicants anywhere in the Northern Territory in the future. The commission is concerned with the number of storekeepers licences in our community. I do not think they are keen to see this particular activity continue. I believe that last year only 8 storekeepers licences were issued which was a very marked reduction on the previous rate. I do not know of any particular program that the commission has embarked upon but I am aware that they are starting to become a little more critical in their analyses of proposals for licences.

1576 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise me what the position is regarding the Contractors Village roads?

ANSWER

The sealing of the roads in the Contractors Village program has been approved. I understand that tenders will be called fairly soon to let a contract in late July. The cost of this program is in the order of some \$140,000.

1577 Ms O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise when the broken pipes at the sewerage pumping station at Ludmilla will be repaired? He has reported that, at times of high tide, it results in foul odours.

ANSWER

I am unable to provide that information at the present time.

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