

DOCKER RIVER —Tuesday 4 April 1989

PUBLIC MEETING

PRESENT: -

Committee:

Mr S. Hatton (Chairman)

Mr B. Ede (Deputy Chairman)

Mr C. Firmin

Mr W. Lanhupuy

Mr D. Leo

Mr R. Setter

Officers assisting the committee: Mr R. Gray (Executive Officer)

Mr G. Nicholson (Legal Adviser)

Appearing before the committee: Mr Neil BELL

(Translating for Unidentified Aborigines)

NOTE: This is a verbatim transcript that has been tape-checked. However due to poor recording or many people speaking at the same time, some of the recordings were inaudible and unable to be transcribed.

Mr HATTON: My name is Steve Hatton. I am the chairman of this committee of the Legislative Assembly. It is called the Select Committee on Constitutional Development. As you know, we have come here to talk to you about starting work on drafting a constitution for the Northern Territory.

The first thing I have to say is very important. We are not asking you whether you think statehood is a good thing or a bad thing. That is another question for the future. Before you can even think about that question, we have to write a constitution. It is like when you wanted to have the Land Rights Act. The first thing they had to do was to sit down and write the act, before you talked about whether you wanted it or not. It was the same when you were thinking about a council for your community. The first thing was to write up a constitution for the council. If you have that and it is what you want, you then say whether you want to go ahead and make the council or not make the council. It is the same thing with statehood. The first thing you do is sit down and write a constitution that sets out your rights and what protection and rules you want for the Northern Territory. When you have done that, you can talk about whether you want it now, next year or in 5 or 10 years time.

The other thing that I must say is that the reason that we are working on a constitution now is because it takes a long time. It does not happen very quickly. There are a lot of people in the Northern Territory, a lot of people with different ideas. It is our job to get all the people talking to each other so that we can gradually come up with rules and laws that everyone agrees are good, and which will become the constitution. This is going to take a long time. We are coming here today to ask you to start thinking about that and to start thinking about what sort of laws we should be making. What sort of rules, what sort of rights should we be writing in? The purpose of this committee is to get communities to start thinking about these questions. Later on, maybe towards the end of this year, we will come back so that you can tell us what you think. Maybe we will come down 2 or 3 times in the process of working out how we go about making this constitution.

Mr BELL: Nyanga pula Constitutional Development Committeengka nyinapai ka ngayulu palu pulala wanu raunurinyi. Palupula Country Partynya ngura ka ngayulu Labor Partynya ngura. Nganana sometime pika-pikaringanyi law kutjupa kujupa-nguru idea kutjupa kutjupanguru.

Kuwari nganana tjungunguwanpa wakaringanyi idea mantintijaku Northern Territoryku idea panya nyura ninti panya Darwintakutu ankupai ngayulunguwanpa wangkantjaku kutjupa kutjupaku law tjunkuntjaku. Well, law kutju katunguwanpa ngaranyi constitution state tjutangka South Australia, Western Australiala, Victoriala, New South Walesala, Australia winkingka palya. There's an Australian Constitution and there's a South Australian constiution, law panya nganana putu changeamilani. Anangu tjutanku kutju changeamilapai politician wiyanguku. Alright? Because that's a strong law. Now, kuwari nganana ngura kutjupa kutjupakutu ankula idea mantjini utinitjaku panya constitution anangungku kulintjaku, tjinguru nyuru kulinu panya Statehood kutjupa tjutanku kulini idea wiru kutjupa tjutalu kulini idea kuranguwanpa. Well, nganana wiya mukuringanyi nyura kuwari ngurkantanytjaku wiya just ara kulintjaku. All right nganana kulini constitution tjinguru tjunkuntjaku three years, five years, ten years. Palya?

These two people are on the Constitutional Development Committee and I am going around with them. They are from the Country party and I am from the Labor party. Sometimes we disagree on different matters and ideas. Today we are working together to get ideas for the Northern Territory. Most of you people know that I go to Darwin to talk about different things and to make laws. There is one law that is a big law and that is the constitution. In all the other states in South Australia, Western Australia, Victoria and New South Wales they all have a law which is the constitution. There is also an Australian Constitution. This law, the constitution, is a very big law and it is not easy to change. The constitution can only be changed by the people, not by politicians, because it is a strong law. Today we are going around to many different communities to get ideas from people and to also tell people about the constitution. Some people think that the constitution is a good idea but others think it's a bad idea. Well today we don't want people to tell us what they think but to just listen to what we have to say. Alright? We are hoping to have a constitution in three, five or ten years time. OK?

Mr HATTON: I said that we are not asking you whether you think statehood will come or not, or whether you think it is a good thing now or not. I ask you, however, to recognise that it will come about, whether in 5 years, 10 years or even 20 years. One day the Northern Territory will be a state and it is very important for us, for our children and for our grandchildren, that we give time and thought to making a constitution that will make this a good place for our children. That is what we are working on.

Mr BELL: Ngulu might be five years, ten years, twenty years Northern Territory ngaraku state nguwanpa South Australianguwanpa, Western Australianguwanpa. Kuwari nganana Self Governmentangka nganana nyanganyi State nguwanpa nguwanpa lipula but nganana mukuringanyi ngula might be uwankara palyanmankula ka nganana tjinguru state ngaratjunku. Kulini? Uwa, nganana wituntja wiya nganana mukuringanyi just utintjaku, yaaltji yaalitji constitution law palunya ngaratjunktjaku, yaaltji yaalitji changeamilani Self Governmentnguru Statehoodtakutu. Nganana mukuringanyi nyura idea kulira pipa palunya nyakula idea mantjira watjantjaku uwa.

In the future, maybe in five years, ten years or twenty years time, the Northern Territory will be a state just like South Australia and Western Australia. Now we have Self Government which is nearly like a state, but we want to be a state later on. When people say yes then we will become a state. Do you understand? We are not pushing you all, we are only giving you all the information about the constitution, and how we will go about getting the constitution. We will then change from Self Government to Statehood. We would like you all to think about this and read this book we have. We then want you to give us your ideas about the constitution.

Mr HATTON: This is how we are working towards writing this law. The first thing our committee did was to look at constitutions all over the world. We came up with this book which has arguments this way and that way on different parts that maybe should go into the constitution.

Mr BELL: Pipa nyangatja palyanu idea kutjupatjara tjinguru some palyanmankuntjaku tjinguru kuramankuntjaku. Ka nyangatja idea kutjupa, ka nyangatja lipulanguwanpa nyangatja easy nguwanpa readamilantjaku, tjinguru pipangka tjunkuntjaku idea kutjupa constiutionatjara. Alright? Tjinguru nganana tjunkuku constitutionangka. Nyaa panya? Idea panya, ananguku law witu kanyiltjaku.

This book has many ideas in it. Some people will say they are good ideas and other people will say they are not good ideas. Some of the things in the book are easy to read. Maybe people want to put their own ideas in the book. Alright? Maybe we will make a constitution so that we can put Aboriginal people's ideas in it and Aboriginal people's law in it.

Mr BELL: We can put things into the constitution so that the things that are important to Aboriginal people are protected. That is some of the ideas that are here in these 2 books. There are also ideas for laws for whitefellers. It is for both.

Mr BELL: Ngaranyi panya law kutjupa, kutjupa walypalaku law, anangu law Godaku law, well nganana kuwari mukuringanyi walypalaku law ngaratjunktjaku anangu law ruwantjakutawara, panya Land Rights Actnguwanpa, Sacred Sites Actnguwanpa. Iriti, tjawalpai tjutangu ngura tjukuritja ruwani well nganana law tjunu ruwantjakutawara uwa putu ruwani well nganana kulini law constitution law pulka panya katutja ngaratjunktjaku panya uparinkuntjakutawara.

There are many, many different laws in the world. There are European's laws, God's laws and there are Aboriginal people's laws. Today we want to make a European law that includes the Aboriginal law so that it is not destroyed. This law will be like the Land Rights Act and the Sacred Sites Act. A long time ago the miners destroyed a lot of the Sacred areas. We want to make this constitution in order to save Aboriginal laws from being destroyed.

Mr HATTON: We are coming out here now to ask you to start looking at these things and talking amongst your community so that later on, maybe later this year, you can tell us what you think should be in the constitution or what you think should not be in it.

Mr BELL: Kuwari nganana nintini nyuranya pipa nyangatja piruku, might be tjinguru Octoberngka tjinguru Novemberngka ngalya pitjaku malaku idea nyurampa kulintjaku. Nyura pipa nyangatja nyakula Councilangka, ngurangka kulira wangkara idea mantjilku nganananya watjantjaku tjinguru Octoberngka tjinguru Novemberngka.

We might come and show you the book maybe in October or November. We will also be coming back to listen to your ideas. You will get your ideas by having council meetings and by talking to each other at home. You can give us your ideas in maybe October and November when we come to talk to you again to listen to your ideas.

Mr HATTON: After we have talked to everyone around the Northern Territory our committee will then make a draft constitution.

Mr BELL: Octoberngka kulira ngura kutjupa kutjupangka kulira, kulira walkatjungkuku constitution arkantja, draft constitution watalpi wiya ngaratjunktja wiya constitution just arkantja. Kutjupa tjutangu nyakula rawanku kulintjaku, kulira, wangkantjaku.

In October when all people have thought about the consitution and said yes to it then we will make a draft constitution. It won't be the real constitution just a first draft. Many people have got to think about this for a long time before they say what they want to be put into the constitution.

Mr HATTON: We are going to do this first part in 3 steps. The next thing we want to do is to get together a group of people, representatives from all over the Territory, including Aboriginal people and white people, who will take part in a meeting to talk about what we suggest and say whether they like it or want to change it. The people of that committee will discuss it to work out what the people themselves think. We need you to say who you think should go on that committee.

Mr EDE: When do you think that will happen - 1 year or 2 years?

Mr HATTON: If we get our work done by April, it would happen after we present it to the Assembly, probably late next year.

Mr BELL: Nganana tjungkuku consitutional convention.

We will make a consitution convention.

Mr EDE: What will the job of the convention be?

Mr HATTON: It will take our draft and all the submissions that have been made and it will prepare the proposed constitution to go to the referendum.

Mr BELL: Piruku constitution panya arkantja nganana wangkangi constitution panya arkantja walkatjunkula ka mitingi pulkangka anangu tjutanku, walkatjunkula ka mitingi pulkangka anangu tjutanku, walypala tjutanku mitingi kutjunga idea palunya tjananya constitution arkantjikitjanga uwankaranku ngurintjaku.

This is about the constitution again. When the draft constitution is completed then all of the Aboriginal and European people have got to get together and have their say about the constitution in a big meeting.

Mr BELL: They will make one draft constitution out of that constitutional convention for everybody to vote on.

Mr HATTON: That is why it is very important that we get the right people to go to that meeting, so that they will be very representative and can speak on behalf of the people, all the people in the Territory. We are asking you to think about that too and tell us the sort of people you think should go there.

Mr BELL: Uwa consitution panya arkantja nyura watjantjaku nganananya ngula. Nganalu constitution panya arkantjanya nyakula kulira ngurkantankuku? Anangu tjutanku anangu nganalu? Uwankaranku wiya tjinguru kutjunku, tjinguru kutjutjaranku, tjinguru mankurru, tjutanku alatji. You got to choose and Walypala nganalu?

OK, later on you will talk to us about the draft constitution. What Aboriginal people will look at the draft constitution and decide? It won't be just one person, two people or even three people. It will be many people maybe? You people have got to choose, also European people as well.

They have to be the right people because when they finish their job, that constitution goes out to all the people and they say yes or no. They vote in a referendum.

Mr BELL: Constitution panya malatja, palyantja watalpi iyalku uwankaranku nyakuntjaku tjinguru newspaperngka alatji and uwankaranku tjinguru palyanmanku tjinguru wiyanmanku, constitution panya malatja kulini.

When the constitution is made then it will be shown to people, maybe through the newspaper, then people can decide to have the constitution or not to have it.

UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: Uwa, tjinguru malatja wiyanmananyi tjinguru alatjinanyi putu arkaranguwanpa.

Maybe people will say no to the draft constitution.

Mr BELL: He says that maybe some people would say that it is good and others would say that it is not.

Mr HATTON: If people say no to the constitution, it goes back and the convention starts working again until it gets one that everyone agrees with.

Mr BELL: Tjinguru uwankaranku wiyanmankuku constitution malatja panya well palya piruku raunuritjaku kulira wangkantjaku yaaltji yaaltji law panya see law kurwari law katutja ngaranyi Self Government Act. State kutjupa tjuta Self Government wiya tjana constitutionatjara ka nganana mukuringanyi Northern Territoryka ngaratjunkuntjaku Constitution, State kutjupa kutjupa tjutanguwanpa.

If people disagree with the constitution then we will start talking to people all over again. See today we have a Self Government Act, but in the other states they don't have Self Government they have a higher law which is a constitution. We would like to make a constitution for the Northern Territory just like the other states.

Mr BELL: I was just saying that, at present, the major law which sets up government in the Northern Territory is the Self-Government Act and that we want to be like the other states, with the same sorts of constitutions agreed to by all of the people.

Mr BELL: Nganana mukuringanyi anangu tjuta walypala tjuta tjungu nyinantjaku. Nganana wiya mukuringanyi walypala

tjutangku kutju ngurkantananyi law palunya, nganana mukuringanyi anangu tjutangku kulu.

We would like European and Aboriginal people to live together. We don't want just the Europeans to put their views into the constitution. We want Aboriginal people's views as well.

Mr BELL: We are in a little bit of trouble because Harry was saying that, clearly, Aboriginal people do not know much about whitefeller law. I said that this is a whitefeller law for making laws. It sets the ground rules.

Mr HARRY BIGFOOT: Nyaalta ngurkantankutjaku? (What are we going to choose?)

Mr BELL: Constitution panya law panya katutja. (The big law, the constitution.

Mr HARRY BIGFOOT: Nganana ngurpa nyuntumpa lawku. Uwa walypalangku palya ngurkantananyi nganana ngurpa don't know. Anangu ngurpa nyinanyangka.

We don't know your laws. Yes, only the Europeans should put their views into the constitution because we ABoriginal people don't know your laws.

Mr BELL: Nyura ninti panya law mutuka tjutaku, nyura ninti panya law panya dry areaku.

You all know about all the laws for motor cars. You all know about the Dry Area law.

PEOPLE: Uwa. (Yes)

Mr BELL: Uwa. Walypalaku law tjana. (Yes. Well they are European's laws.)

SECOND SPEAKER: Uwa, nganana tjunguringanyi anangu walypala wana kutjuku tjukurpa kutjuku law kutjuku nganana tjunguringanyi.

Yes, we are going to get together European and Aboriginal people for the one constitution.

Mr HARRY BIGFOOT: Hey, wantima kana ngayuluwarara wangkara pinitjiri. Palyalta wati wangka nyangatja ngayulu pulkanyatu kulira wanani.

Hey, just wait a minute until I finish what I am saying first. Then you can say what you want to say. I do understand what is being said here.

SECOND SPEAKER: Purkarangku panya kutjupangku watjara wiyaringanyi.

Let's just say what we have to say separately without getting angry about it.

Mr HARRY BIGFOOT: Purkutjara wati wangkama nyuntu kana ngunti mutu mutu wangkara wiyaringama.

You, the one who is bereaved, say something and then I will say something and then finish.

SECOND SPEAKER: Katutjaku law nyangatja ka nyura kurani titutjarangku, nganampa katutjaku law nyangatja ngaratjunktja katutjangku, katutjangku ngaratjunktja law. Law nganampa. Wati tjutaku nganampa law ngaratjunktja katutjangku. Ngayulu iriti ngayulu kuraringkula anu pikatjara anu.

This is God's law and you are spoiling it the way you have done before, This law was made for all men. Long time ago I got sick and went away to Adelaide.

THIRD SPEAKER: Kurani ngangkar. (Oh, no, he's messing up the meeting.)

SECOND SPEAKER: Ngayunya wakanu ngura nyara Atilaitala. Wati punkupai miilarara punkupai wati kutjupa.

I was made better in Adelaide when I was ill. A man can, if offended, get angry and hit out at people.

Mr BELL: Punkupayi nganalu? (Who does the hitting?)

SECOND SPEAKER: Wati tjutangu ngura panya nyangangka miilarni uti nganana kalypa wirungku law nyanga palunya kanyima.

Men from this community who get offended. We can't get together and talk about this constitution peacefully.

Mr BELL: Uwa. (Yes)

SECOND SPEAKER: Nyuntula ngayulu wangkanyi. (I'm only saying this to you.)

Mr HATTON: When you vote, you elect Neil Bell or me or Rick into parliament and we make laws. If you do not have not a constitution, we can just keep making whatever laws we want to make or take the laws away. To stop us being able to do that, the people come and say: 'You can do this. You cannot do that'. The people draw up the rules for us, what we can do and what we cannot do. You tell us what rights you have that we cannot touch. That is what the constitution does.

Mr BELL: Uwa. Tjilpinkuni watjanu, wiya nganana ngurpa walypalaku lawku. Ka ngayulu watjanu wiya nyura ninti panya law kutjupa kutjupaku dry areaku, motor vehicle registerimilantjaku, panya courtangka tjarpantjaku uwa kaankangu mantjintjakutawara law kutjupa kutjupa.

Yes. Harry told me that you people do not know about European laws, but I told you all about that. You all know about the many European laws. Different laws like the Dry Area law, the motor vehicle registration law, court law, stealing law and you also know about many other laws too.

Mr NICHOLSON: I think it would be a pity if they went away with the idea that we were just drawing up another whitefeller law.

Mr HATTON: That is right. I will build on that if I can. Can you just explain what I said then, Neil?

Mr BELL: Tjinguru nganana wangkantjaku law panya Constitution law panya katutja constitution. Alright? Politicians tjutangu law palyani mutukai registerimilantjaku kutjupa kutjupa. Politicians tjutangu law palunya constitution tjunkuntja wiya Angangungku, walypalangu, tjana palyani nyura nganananya watjani yaaltji law palyantjaku. Alright?

Maybe we'll talk about the constitution, alright? Politicians make the laws for things like motor vehicles but it's the people, European and Aboriginal people, who make a constitution, not the politicians. The people tell the politicians what to put into the constitution.

Mr BELL: It is very hard to explain.

Mr HATTON: That does not explain it?

Mr BELL: No.

Mr NICHOLSON: What about the community government model? Do they understand that.

Mr HATTON: There is no community government here.

Mr NICHOLSON: They must have a council though.

Mr BELL: The council, yes.

Mr NICHOLSON: Well, that must have a constitution.

Mr BELL: That is right. The constitution for the council.

Mr BELL: Nyura law tjunu Councilaku for the Association for the Council and nyura idea kutjupa kutjupa kulira tjuna. Law panya Councilaku well nyangatjanguwanpa lipulanguwanpa Northern Territoryku Legislative Assemblyku. Palya?

A constitution is like the laws you have for your council. Your council law and the constitution which is for the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly is similar. OK?

WOMAN SPEAKER: Ideaya kunyu kutjupangu kulira tjakultjura wiya kanmanaringuya yuuntju palya pitjala kuitjinamilani nyuranya.

Come on you people think of some ideas and tell him. Don't just sit there quietly. Ask him questions also.

MALE SPEAKER: Idea yaaltji nyuntu wangkanyi? Dry area, other area alatji wangkanyi?

What sort of laws are you talking about? Are you just talking about the Dry Area law?

Mr HATTON: And they say what the council can or cannot do.

Mr BELL: They are important laws but they change. We have different ideas. Sometimes parts of that law are good and sometimes they have to be changed. We want to make sure, for example, that everybody over the age of 18 votes in the Northern Territory. Those are the sorts of things that you would put in a constitution.

MALE SPEAKER: Vote wiyangka malakutu piruku. Waakaringanyi mulapa?

If the people vote against the constitution then we have to begin all this work again. True.

Mr BELL: Yes, that is right. If people do not vote in favour of it, we will keep trying until we get it right. If there are things that people think are wrong, we will keep working at them so that, eventually, we will get everybody together.

Mr HATTON: The constitution must be a law that is made by the people, not by the parliament. It is a law from the people, for the people and it can only be changed by the people.

FIRST SPEAKER: Anangungku panya tjukurpa iritija Wangkara, ngalya wangkama anangukutu. Palunyanuwanpa nyangatja wankanyi?

You know a long time ago Aboriginal people used to sit down and talk to each other like we are doing today.

Mr BELL: Ananguku law? (Aboriginal law?)

FIRST SPEAKER: Anangungku panya irititja wangkapai tjukurpa, ka Yangupalanguku kulipai munu ma kulipai palunya way nyangatja.

A long time ago, the elders taught the young people the laws of our society.

Mr BELL: They are saying that, a long time ago, in the olden times, the older people knew the law and the young people who came afterwards learnt about that law.

That is right. The constitution is a little bit like that in that it is one law that stays very much the same.

MALE SPEAKER: Walypala tjutaku law panya tjanampa changeamilani. Nganampa still ma ngaranyi.

European people are known for changing their laws when it suite them. But our laws are still the same as they were before.

Mr HATTON: And this one cannot be changed like that. They can understand that idea.

Mr BELL: And this is one.

Mr HATTON: They can understand that idea.

Mr BELL: Law panya constitution ngaranyi tirtunguwanpa putunguwanpa changearipai.

The constitution is a law that cannot be changed.

WOMAN SPEAKER: Nganana wali palangka nyinanyi toileta wiya bathrooma wiya.

We are living in a house that has no bathroom or toilet facilities.

MALE SPEAKER: Tukurpa ngulaku wanti, wiya kulinila kutju.

Leave that business about the houses alone, we are just listening at this meeting.

WOMAN SPEAKER: Wiya, kulintja wiya nyangatja naganampa uwankaraku ngaranya panya tjakultjunktjaku.

No, we are not here just to listen, we have things to report as well.

Mr BELL: Uwa, wangkama. Uwa palya.

Yes, that's OK. Tell us what you want to tell us.

MALE SPEAKER: Watjala ka tjakultjura palula.

Tell him then he can tell the others.

WOMAN SPEAKER: Tjakultjura kunyu walangku.

Tell him quickly.

WOMAN SPEAKER: Tjakultjunktjaku wiya panya alangkala wali palangka palangka nyinanyi titutjara alatjitu, alanytjiri panya ngaranya palyantja wiya.

We are living in a house that has no ceiling. It has not been finished yet.

Mr BELL: Wali palyantja wiya? (They haven't fixed a house)

WOMAN SPEAKER: Wali uwa window kulukulu palyantja wiya, tili wiyala nyinanyi munu katutjanya palyantja wiya.

Yes, we haven't got windows, lights or ceilings in our house.

Mr BELL: Munu irona wiya roof wiya. **(Also no roof?)**

Mr BELL: These people are fairly cranky because the houses have no power connected and their roofs have not been finished. These are more immediate concerns than the constitution.

Mr HATTON: I can understand that.

Mr SETTER: Who is responsible for that, Neil?

Mr HATTON: The housing association.

Mr BELL: Uwa, tjinguru nyuntu, ngali, nganana kuwaripa constitution panya wangkara, kala wankaku waliku palya, Uwa?

Ok, we will talk about the housing problems later after we have finished with the constitution. Alright?

Mr HARRY BIGFOOT: Uwa, nganananyalta kulini wati maru tjuta nguraku wangkantjaku.

Yes, you can listen to us while we talk about our home.

Mr BELL: Uwa, palya? **(Alright, that will be fine)**

Mr BELL: We will talk about some other things afterwards. They want to talk about outstations.

Mr HATTON: That is fine.

Mr BELL: We will just finish with this constitution business.

Mr HATTON: We have talked about the constitution being a law that cannot get changed. There has been a lot of trouble in the past, and sometimes in the present, between the whitefellers and the Aboriginal people. We should try to work to make one law, one constitution for Aboriginal and whitefellers, so that we can live together properly with each having proper rights. We must work together on that. It can only happen through the constitution. It is the one law about how we can all live together with respect for each other.

Mr BELL: Uwa, alatji wangkangu paluru. Paluru nganana mukuringanyi constitutionaku pukulpa nyinatjaku anangu tjuta, walypala tjuta kulu. Iriti walypala tjutangu kulintja wiya ananguku law tjana, watarku ankupai, ngura miilmiilpa ruwanunguwanpa. Ngura tjukuritja ruwanu. Ka nganana mukuringanya tjukarurungku ngapartji ngaparti nyinantjku law panya constitutionangka, kanyintajku ananguku law. Ruwantjakutawara, katantantjakutwara. Palya?

Nyura idea palunya tjananya kulintjaku. Walypala tjutangu law kutjupa kutjupa ngaratjunu ananguku law nyakula. Nganana Land Rights Act ngaratjunu, nganana Sacred Sites Protection Act ngaratjunu. Ananguku law kulira, mulapa.

Yes, what he said is that we want Aboriginal and European people to live happily together with the constitution. A long time ago European people went onto sacred sites and destroyed them without thinking and knowing what they were. So what we want is to help each other out by putting Aboriginal people's law into the constitution because it might be destroyed. OK? You must understand this European people have made laws such as the Land Rights Act and the Sacred Sites Act after looking at Aboriginal law. This is true.

PEOPLE: Uwa (Yes)

Mr BELL: Well nganana mukuringanyi constitutionangka ngaratjunktjaku law pulka changeamilantja wiya, alatji kanyintjaku ananguku law. Uwa. Palya?

We want to make the constitution so that we can keep Aboriginal law alive in the constitution. Alright?

PEOPLE: Uwa, palya. (Yes, that's good.)

Mr HATTON: That is why we must do this job. It is really important, for you and for all of us, that you think about these things. If you are not sure about something, ask for more information so that you can understand as much as possible. Then you can think about it, talk, and have your say. You can say what you think should happen. When you do this, think about yourselves and your families. Think about the other people too, so we can get everybody thinking about each other for one place.

Mr BELL: Nganana mukuringanyi kutjupa kutjupa tjutangu wiya wanyu. Nganana mukuringanyi uwankarangku kutjupa tjuta nyakula law palunya constitution tjunktjaku. Uwankara pukulpa nyinantjaku. Nganana mukuringanyi nyura nganana kutjupa tjuta nyakula. Munta. Tjana mukuringanyi kutjupa kutjupa tjinguru walypalangku ananguku idea kulintjaku, and ngapartji, ngapartji. Uwa?

We would like many different people to - no that's not it. We would like everyone to make the constitution, and for everyone to be happy with the constitution. We would like you with us to look at all the different ideas for the constitution - no that's not it. We would like Europeans to look at Aboriginal law and you should look at European people's law. Alright?

Mr HATTON: We will leave some stuff behind so that you can start to think about these things. Please, if anybody has any questions, ask them now.

Mr BELL: Tjinguru, uwa palya nganana wiyaringu pipa nyanganpa wantiku. Nyura nyakula, kulintjaku, kuwaripa wangkantjaku. Tjinguru, nyura ngalinya kulira mukuringanyi kuwari ara wangkantjaku mulapa? Ara wangkantjaku?

OK, we will stop now so that you people can tell us your ideas. Maybe, you like what you have heard from us and you want to say something now. OK?

MALE SPEAKER: Uwa, tjana nyanga outstation ngurara tjutanku and wati Docker Rivernya ngurarangkunti ara wangkaku. Palyaya kunyu tjakultjunama wali panya nyura watjara wantingu palunya tjananya. Palulaya tjakultjura.

Yes, the men from the outstations and also from Docker River want to talk about their outstations. It is good that you people talk to these people about your outstations now.

Mr BELL: Uwa, palya tjinguru ara wiya, tjinguru ngula.

Alright, now we might finish this meeting because no one wants to talk about the constitution anymore. Maybe later.

Mr BELL: People want to talk about that housing business.