

PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

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

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 1 AUGUST 1978

FROM 28 FEBRUARY 1978

212 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. What investigations have been made to date into the purchase of Willeroo-Scott Creek by the Northern Territory executive?
2. Has any money been spent in travel or otherwise to investigate the proposed purchase?
3. If money has been spent on travel or otherwise, on what authority was the money spent?

FROM 7 MARCH 1978

253 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND WORKS

Has the Northern Territory Port Authority signed a lease agreement with V.B. Perkins and Co? If so, when? If not, why not?

FROM 2 MAY 1978

365 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

- (a) Has the NT executive received a warrant authority for the funding of the functions transferred on 1 January 1978?
- (b) If so, on what date?
- (c) On what date did the NT executive receive an undertaking from the Australian government to provide the additional \$1,396,535 to provide for funds for the functions transferred on 1 January 1978?
- (d) Will the Chief Minister supply me with a copy of the correspondence giving the undertaking?

FROM 9 MAY 1978

484 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to the Aboriginal Development Foundation and ask -

- (a) how many members does it have, and who are the current office bearers and what are their positions;
- (b) are elections for this organisation held and, if so, when;
- (c) do members of the foundation meet and, if so, how often, and are their meetings advertised in the Aboriginal community generally;
- (d) what audit checks are carried out on the foundation's financial statement;
- (e) are financial statements available and, if so, to whom; and
- (f) is the foundation currently operating under the constitution lodged with and accepted by the Registrar of Companies and, if so, what is the date of incorporation?

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FROM 7 JUNE 1978

548 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

In the first instance did the Northern Territory executive approach the receiver to purchase the NADC properties through Elder Smith Goldsborough Mort?

549 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Who approved the loan of \$150,000 advanced by the Primary Producers Board to the receiver of the NADC properties?

550 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Does the Minister for Industrial Development intend introducing legislation into the Assembly, validating the actions of the Primary Producers Board in making a cash advance to the receiver of NADC?

551 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

To what extent did the chairman or other officers of the Primary Producers Board negotiate with the receiver of NADC and on whose authority, between November 1977 and March 1978 inclusively?

552 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is he aware that another party was interested in purchasing the NADC properties around November-December 1977?
2. Did the Chief Minister or any other person authorised by him request the receiver of NADC to cease negotiations with another potential purchaser of the NADC properties during the trial crop period?

553 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Did the chairman of the Primary Producers Board have written authorisation from the receiver or the secured creditors of NADC to buy and sell assets on the Willeroo-Scott Creek properties?
2. To what extent did the chairman of the Primary Producers Board sign cheques and order seed for the Willeroo-Scott Creek venture?

572 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. What is the estimated value of the Scott Creek-Willeroo project crop which was used as a lien on a loan?
2. Have the crops yet been harvested and, if not, when will they be harvested?

575 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is he going to take any action to recover amounts overpaid to A. Jettner and to ensure that all Aboriginal workers receive the full payment to which they are entitled from their employment on the Willeroo-Scott Creek properties?

576 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What were the findings of the preliminary feasibility assessment carried out by the Primary Producers Board on the Willeroo-Scott Creek properties?

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 1 AUGUST 1978

577 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Did Mr Jettner have authority to use funds belonging to the Willeroo-Scott Creek Social Club account?

578 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it true that some Aboriginal workers employed on the Willeroo-Scott Creek properties have not been paid for their labour for the period 2 December 1977 to 31 March 1978?

579 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Why was legislation not introduced into the Assembly in February to establish a statutory authority to purchase the Willeroo-Scott Creek complex?
2. Does the Northern Territory executive still intend to purchase the Willeroo-Scott Creek properties?

580 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Who ordered the planting of the trial crops at the Scott Creek-Willeroo complex?

582 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Why has the Primary Producers Board now made an advance of \$150,000 to the receiver of Willeroo-Scott Creek when in early January the Northern Territory executive rejected a proposed loan by the Primary Producers Board to the receiver?

583 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. When did the consulting firm AACM begin its investigations into the feasibility of the purchase of the Willeroo complex?
2. Has this firm actually completed its investigations and how much will it be paid for its investigations?

584 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it true that Crown land officers advised the Primary Producers Board they are responsible for the payment of wages to workers employed on the Scott Creek-Willeroo complex during the period 1 to 31 March?

585 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Why did the Northern Territory executive reject the Primary Producers Board proposal to lend money to the receiver of the Scott Creek-Willeroo properties in January this year?

586 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In November or December 1977, was advice sought from the Lands Branch on the Northern Territory executive's proposal to purchase the Scott Creek-Willeroo property and if advice was sought, what was the advice?

587 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Who was the employer of the housekeeper who worked on the Willeroo complex during the Christmas and New Year period?

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 1 AUGUST 1978

589 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Have approaches been made overseas, on behalf of the Northern Territory executive, for the raising of loan money to finance the Willeroo-Scott Creek purchase? If so, in which countries have such approaches been made?

590 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Before his negotiations with Mr H.V. Quinton on the Willeroo-Scott Creek purchase, had the Chief Minister had any dealings with Mr Quinton on other matters?

591 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

On what authority did Mr Jettner charge approximately \$70,000 worth of goods and services to the Northern Territory Producers Co-op?

592 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Where will the Willeroo-Scott Creek crops be marketed and have contracts been arranged for the sale of these crops?

593 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Under what provisions of the Encouragement of Primary Production Ordinance has the \$150,000 advance been made to the receiver of the Willeroo-Scott Creek properties?
2. What is the interest rate on the \$150,000 advance to the receiver of the Willeroo-Scott Creek properties?

594 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

On what date did the Primary Producers Board agree to appoint a resident manager to the Willeroo-Scott Creek complex?

595 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What was the cost to the Primary Producers Board of its officers' wages, salaries, travelling allowances, overtime and air fares incurred on or in relation to the Willeroo-Scott Creek complex during the period November 1977 to April 1978?

596 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

For what purpose was a \$66,000 advance sought by NT Producers Co-op Limited from the Primary Producers Board and why was this advance application rejected by the Primary Producers Board?

597 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What payments have been made by the Primary Producers Board to its chairman for work undertaken on the NADC property?

598 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

To what extent did the chairman of the Primary Producers Board sign cheques and order seed for the Willeroo-Scott Creek venture?

599 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Did the chairman of the Primary Producers Board have written authorisation

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 1 AUGUST 1978

from the receiver or the secured creditors of NADC to buy and sell assets on the Willeroo-Scott Creek properties?

605 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

1. Has the Department of Education proposed that the Alice Springs Community College be developed into a Central Australian College of Technical and Further Education?
2. Why were the views of the Alice Springs Community College in relation to this proposal not sought officially by the Minister for Education or his department?
3. Is he aware that the NT Further Education Council has recommended that Alice Springs Community College should be a Community College of Central Australia and, if so, what action will he take to ensure that this recommendation is carried out?

606 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Will he give an undertaking that measures, similar to those adopted by the Australian Public Service to give more Aborigines jobs, will be introduced by the Northern Territory Public Service?

607 Mr PERKINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Is it a fact that children who are the products of Aboriginal marriages by Aboriginal law are regarded in the Northern Territory as illegitimate for the purposes of the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages Ordinance and, if so, why?

610 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Will he confirm that a number of Aborigines who worked at the Willeroo project between December and March were not actually paid by the Primary Producers Board?

611 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Who was the employer of the housekeeper who worked on the Willeroo-Scott Creek complex during the Christmas-New Year period?

612 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. When did the consulting firm AACM begin its investigations into the feasibility of the purchase of the Willeroo-Scott Creek complex?
2. Has this firm completed its investigations?
3. How much will this firm be paid for its investigations?

614 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER FOR MINES AND ENERGY

1. What are the names of the non-Aboriginal members of the Prime Minister's fishing party that recently fished Dreaming Waters?
2. Is it intended to prosecute these persons under section 25F of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Ordinance?

618 Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Majority Party executive considered the establishment of a central

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 1 AUGUST 1978

purchasing authority to coordinate the purchase of goods and stores for the Northern Territory Public Service?

FROM 13 JUNE 1978

710 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is the Primary Producers Board maintaining accounts in the form required by Regulation 13 of the Encouragement of Primary Production Regulations in respect of the advance to Willeroo?

711 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

As a result of its involvement in the Willeroo-Scott Creek properties, what are the assets which have been acquired by or come under the control of the Primary Producers Board?

712 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

In relation to the \$150,000 advance made to the receiver of the Willeroo-Scott Creek properties, can the honourable minister advise whether the application was received by the Primary Producers Board in the form required by Regulation 5 of the Encouragement of Primary Production Regulations?

FROM 1 AUGUST 1978

742 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many "ministerial staff" and in what designations will they be attached to the Northern Territory government on 1 July 1978?
2. How many advisory staff and in what designations will they be attached to the Opposition from 1 July 1978?

758 Mr OLIVER to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Are any means tests applicable to Aboriginal Legal Aid Service?

795 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

1. How many small businesses in the Northern Territory became bankrupt, made arrangements with creditors or were liquidated during (a) the years (i) 1975-76 and (ii) 1976-77 and (b) the periods (i) 1 July 1977 to 31 December 1977 and (ii) 1 January 1978 to date?
2. How many taxpayers in the Northern Territory defined as essentially deriving their income from farming became bankrupt or made arrangements with creditors during the same years and periods?
3. How many Northern Territory businesses essentially involved in farming became bankrupt or made arrangements with creditors during the same years and periods?

817 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is he aware that in an order made on 9 June 1978 by Mr McGregor SM at the Katherine Court of Summary Jurisdiction the following was found:
 - (a) that a Sergeant R.W. Fields, the police prosecutor, was found to be saying things on oath which were not true;
 - (b) that Sergeant Fields was found to be not telling the truth regarding his denial that he has never used derogatory terms about Aboriginals since his joining the NT Police Force;

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 1 AUGUST 1978

- (c) that, further, Sergeant Fields admitted pushing a Mr James Ryan, an Aboriginal, around in the charge room, and that he hit Mr Ryan in the head three or four times with a clenched fist?
2. Is he further aware that:
- (a) Mr Ryan was taken into custody at the time as a person who was so drunk as to be incapable of looking after his own welfare;
 - (b) Mr Ryan is a pensioner who was repatriated from Korea with haemorrhagic fever and has been in receipt of a military pension ever since;
 - (c) Sergeant Fields admitted that he offered no medical assistance even though Mr Ryan was bleeding from the face; and
 - (d) Mr Ryan was convicted without penalty in the case?
3. What action does he propose to take where persons taken into custody are assaulted or intimidated in some way by some police?
4. What action does he propose to take to improve the attitude of some police officers who are known to refer to Aboriginal persons in derogatory terms in the course of their duties?
5. Will he undertake to investigate this incident involving Sergeant Fields and Mr Ryan, with a view to taking remedial measures and to preventing any further such incidents?

823 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER FOR HEALTH

What arrangement will be made for pupils of schools which do not have dental therapy units to benefit from the provision of those facilities in new schools?

826 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER FOR LANDS AND HOUSING

Under what provisions of which legislation was approval given to the development of offices on lot 620 Town of Darwin, situated in Mitchell Street?

827 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER FOR LANDS AND HOUSING

In connection with the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Expenditure's report of May 1978, will the NT government -

- (a) implement any or all of the report's 9 major recommendations on the NT forestry program;
- (b) form a house committee to study the implications of the report for the NT?

828 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Minister for Primary Industry has said that \$100,000 will go to the Northern Territory for virology laboratory equipment.

- 1. Is this money offered on a dollar-for-dollar basis to the Northern Territory?
- 2. Has it in effect been offered?
- 3. If it is offered will it be accepted on a dollar-for-dollar basis, or otherwise on what basis?

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 1 AUGUST 1978

830 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND WORKS

1. What is the estimated cost of new and replacement works required to bring public utility systems up to a reliable standard where maintenance costs will be at a reasonably low level?
2. Will this include such items as new treatment plants, major augmentation of systems where these can be foreseen as being required in the near future, new control system where economic analyses show that these could reduce operating costs, replacement of pumps, tanks, treatment plants, etc. where these are nearing the end of their economic life?

831 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Since March 1973, on which occasions were requests made by the Police Commissioner for additional police, how many were requested on each occasion and how many were approved on each occasion?
2. What will be the establishment number of police officers on 1 July 1978?
3. How many police officers are currently employed?

836 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER FOR LANDS AND HOUSING

Has the study of arterial roads in Darwin, to which he referred in answer to question 276 of 2 March 1978, been completed and, if so, what recommendations have been made in respect of -

- (a) the Palmerston arterial road; and
- (b) the Frances Bay arterial road?

837 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER FOR HEALTH

1. How many positions for dentists exist at the Katherine Dental Clinic?
2. How many dentists were employed at the Katherine Dental Clinic on 1 July 1978?
3. What is the waiting time for appointments at the Katherine Dental Clinic?
4. How many dentists were employed at the Katherine Dental Clinic on 1 July 1977?
5. Has there been any increase or decrease in the waiting time for appointments at the Katherine Dental Clinic since 1 July 1977?

838 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER FOR LANDS AND HOUSING

1. Has an occupation licence been issued to those persons carrying on the business known as Jet Ski Hire at Mindil Beach, Darwin?
2. If not, have those persons any right to occupy that land for the purpose of carrying on a business?
3. Has permission been granted for Jet Ski Hire to erect a structure at Mindil Beach, Darwin ?
4. What precautions have been taken to ensure that swimmers are not

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 1 AUGUST 1978

injured by jet skis?

840 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND WORKS

1. What are the names of the three Centralian cattlemen who received between them \$378,000 in loans from the Northern Territory government?
2. How much did each of the cattlemen receive and at what initial interest rate?
3. How much money is available under the rural adjustment scheme?

841 Mr ISAACS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

What was the extent of non-business insolvency in the Northern Territory for the years 1975-76, 1976-77 and 1977-78?

842 Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

Who paid the air fares and/or travel allowances of government members, not being office holders, who travelled to Katherine on or about 21 July 1978?

843 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER FOR HEALTH

1. What are the prescribed requirements that determine eligibility for a Northern Territory pastoral property to attract a nursing subsidy from the Department of Health?
2. How many pastoral properties received such a subsidy in the 1977-78 financial year, what are the names of the pastoral properties concerned, the names of the nursing sisters associated with those pastoral properties and the specified amounts of nursing subsidy paid to those individual pastoral properties?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

191 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Will he advise when and where the Community Access Centre for Alice Springs will be provided?

Will the facilities and resources of the proposed Community Access Centre be made freely available to other local community organisations, including Aboriginal organisations?

What is the total staff establishment and salary levels proposed for the Community Access Centre?

Will this centre replace the functions of the Alice Springs Regional Council for Social Development?

ANSWER

The arrangements for the provision of access centres are still in course of investigation and an announcement about the Majority Party's intentions will be made as soon as these have been completed.

223 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER FOR LANDS AND HOUSING

In respect of the new Darwin Town Planning Scheme that is on public exhibition until 30 March 1978 -

- (a) how many objections have so far been lodged; and
- (b) how many permits to build have been issued since 1 January 1978 in respect of parcels of land that have been the subject of public objection?

ANSWER

The proposed planning scheme was on exhibition until 31 March 1978.

- (a) A total of 298 objections were received. One objection was withdrawn before 31 March. A number of objections covered a number of parcels of land and/or aspects of the schedule.

(b)	<u>Town of</u>	<u>Lodged but not yet approved</u>	<u>Approved</u>
	Darwin	6	3
	Nightcliff	2	4
	Sanderson	Nil	Nil
	Hundred of Bagot	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>
		<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>

303 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In the 1976-1977 financial year, what was the amount of financial assistance provided by the Majority Party government to each Northern Territory amateur sporting body?

ANSWER

The Majority Party assumed responsibility for sport and recreation on 1 January 1977. The Commonwealth government had by this time decided on the allocation of funds to sporting and cultural groups for the whole financial year, and disbursement of these funds was in process. The Majority Party did not alter the allocations decided upon by the Commonwealth.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

In the 1977-1978 financial year the Majority Party has made the following appropriation for the direct furtherance of sport in the Northern Territory.

Grants to trustees of reserves and community grants

Darwin Junior Rugby Club	\$ 4,000
Northern Territory Hockey Association	\$ 2,500
Gove Little Athletics Association	\$ 400
Nhulunbuy Town Oval (Construction)	\$10,000
Purkiss Reserve, Tennant Creek	\$58,200
Katherine Racecourse and Recreation Reserve (equestrian sports)	\$29,700
Katherine Soccer Reserve	\$27,600
Blatherskite Park, Alice Springs	\$ 8,800
Batchelor Bowling Green (Maintenance, etc.)	\$ 3,000
Nhulunbuy Play Group	\$ 200
Northern Territory Baseball League	\$ 2,100
Northern Territory Secondary School Sports	\$ 1,000
Northern Territory Primary School Amateur Sports	\$ 1,000
Northern Territory Women's Soccer Association	\$ 1,000
Northern Territory Tennis Association	\$ 250
Northern Territory Little Athletics Association	\$ 500
Northern Territory Football League Incorporated	\$ 250
Tennant Creek Cricket Club	\$ 250
Northern Territory Rugby Union	\$ 250
Nhulunbuy Police and Citizens Youth Club	\$ 1,000
Moil Little Athletics Association	\$ 250
Northern Territory Yachting Association	\$ 250
Casuarina Girl Guides Association	\$ 250
	<u>\$152,850</u>

Betting control funds

Alice Springs Little Athletics	\$ 500
Tennant Creek Baseball Association	\$ 1,000
Katherine Little Athletics	\$ 1,000
Nightcliff Amateur Swimming Club	\$ 500
NT Netball Association	\$ 2,000
Tennant Creek Little Athletics	\$ 1,000
Darwin Horse and Pony Club	\$ 500
Tennant Creek Saddle Horse Club	\$ 500
YMCA Youth Clubs	\$ 500
Nhulunbuy Police and Citizens Youth Club	\$ 500
Darwin Marching Girls	\$ 500

335. Mr PERKINS to TREASURER

Has the Northern Territory executive determined exactly what functions will be transferred from the Department of Construction to the Northern Territory Public Service on 1 July 1978?

If so, what are these functions?

ANSWER

Yes.

Functions transferred are as follows:

Water and sewerage supply, design/construction/maintenance and billing
Road, design/construction and maintenance
Building, design/construction and maintenance

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supply
Plant and equipment
Area management, Alice Springs)
Area management, Katherine) covering all above functions.
Area management, Tennant Creek)
Electricity, supply and distribution
Housing, design and maintenance.

384 Mrs O'NEIL to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

How many persons have claimed exemption from jury service under section 11A of the Juries Ordinance?

ANSWER

The Sheriff of the Supreme Court has advised that 178 women have been exempted from jury service under sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 11A.

Under sub-section (3) a total of 145 women have been exempted since 1 January 1976. Figures prior to that date are difficult to obtain due to the method of record keeping.

386 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. What are the precise clinical features in those Northern Territory cattle and sheep, goats and buffaloes suffering from the strain of blue tongue virus now being recorded in the Top End?
2. How many animals have been found to be clinically sick?
3. How many have died?
4. How can the disease be eradicated?
5. What financial burden and what responsibilities will this place on the government of the Northern Territory and the individual farmer?

ANSWER

1. To date no clinical signs of blue tongue have been observed in free range cattle, sheep, goats or buffaloes in the Territory. The Australian government publication "Review of Australian Quarantine Arrangements" describes the symptoms of blue tongue as -
"a viral disease of sheep, cattle and goats. However cattle tend to be carriers of the disease showing no clinical symptoms. The symptoms of blue tongue are very easily confused with a number of 'normal' disease conditions which affect livestock in practically every country. In broad terms, there is a degeneration of the mucous membrane of the mouth, tongue, eyes and a considerable metabolic disturbance. There may be a significant temperature rise and a possible recurrent viremia".
2. None.
3. None.
4. and 5. The virus is transmitted only by infected insects of the biting midge family, several species of which are common in the Territory. It cannot be transmitted in meat or by contact between animals. Eradication is therefore extremely difficult and has not been considered seriously. The policy determined by the Australian Agricultural Council is one for containment. The Australian government has accepted that some financial burdens on producers exist because of live export market losses and testing requirements and has announced an offer of a scheme of financial assistance to affected producers; that offer has been accepted by my government.

387 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Following on from the reply to my question on notice regarding the future plans of Agriculture and Animal Industry Branch to actively encourage agricultural development in the Northern Territory, what stage have the negotiations reached between the Northern Territory executive and the Commonwealth to have the Northern Territory Agriculture and Animal Industry Branch included in the Commonwealth Extension Services Grants Scheme?
2. What other sources of finance are available to the branch for investigation and development of projects to help small land holders?

ANSWER

1. Australian Agricultural Council at its 103rd meeting in January 1978 accepted the recommendation of Standing Committee on Agriculture for the continuance of the Commonwealth Extension Services Grants Scheme whereby the Commonwealth provides special grants to the states for agricultural extension and regional research. The council also endorsed the development of extension and regional research activities in the Northern Territory consistent with the services of the states.

I understand that federal Cabinet has agreed in principle to the continuation of the scheme and that the level of funding will be considered in the budget context.

The Northern Territory has prepared papers detailing programs to be conducted under the scheme together with cost estimates. The NT executive expects to be discussing financial arrangements for "special grants", of which the CESG is one example, with the Commonwealth in the near future.

2. Other sources of finance that could be available to the branch for research and developmental purposes include:
 - (a) Rural Industry Research Funds -
 - Australian Meat Research Committee
 - Oilseeds Research Committee
 - Australian Chicken Meat Research Committee
 - Pig Industry Research Committee
 - Poultry Research (Eggs) Committee
 - (b) Supplementary government funds -
 - Special research grants
 - (c) Rural Credits Development Fund (Reserve Bank)
 - (d) Private industry contributions.

The Animal Industry and Agriculture Branch is conducting animal nutrition experiments at Berrimah partially funded by the Australian Meat Research Committee grants and has recently made application to the Rural Credits Development Fund for grants to advance some aspects of horticultural research in the NT.

571 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Is the Douglas-Daly experimental station still on a sub-lease from Douglas station, owned by Sir William Gunn and now in liquidation and, if not, what is the present tenure situation?
2. What amount of money has been spent on the Douglas-Daly station and how can this expenditure be justified in view of the weak tenure position?
3. When was this station established; was a formal agreement with Sir William Gunn for the use of the land in existence at the time or did

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

operations commence on a mutual cooperation basis involving the use of a Tipperary bulldozer?

4. What has prevented the re-negotiation of a reasonable lease tenure during the last couple of years to allow reasonable security of both experimentation and assets?

ANSWER

1. Yes.
2. The design of the Department of the Northern Territory's accounting system does not provide for the positive identification of expenditure incurred on individual experiment farms/stations.
3. The station was formally established in 1968 through a favourable sub-lease with Gunn Rural Enterprises. It followed some 6 years of small plot experiments, through informal agreements on Tipperary station.
4. Nothing has so far prevented the extension of the sub-lease although receivership has complicated the negotiations. The matter is expected shortly to be successfully finalised.

573 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND WORKS

1. Will he obtain from the Australian Broadcasting Commission answers to the following questions with a view to ensuring the upgrading of radio and television programs to a state-like standard of quality and variety:
 - (a) Does the ABC appreciate that in a few weeks the Territory will be a state in everything but name?
 - (b) In view of this, what local state type output in such things as news, current affairs, sporting, education and rural can the Territory expect?
 - (c) Will the so-called regional news be extended to a full length state-national bulletin, and a regional television news service provided for Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Katherine?
 - (d) Will a daily TDT-style current affairs program be re-introduced?
 - (e) Will rural television programs applicable to the Territory be re-introduced?
 - (f) Will education programs suitable to the NT school curriculum be produced and transmitted in the Northern Territory?
 - (g) What is the timetable for converting the ABC television studios in Darwin to colour?
 - (h) Will colour television equipment installed in Darwin allow material to be fed into the national network?
 - (i) Can we expect such national programs as Divine Service to be produced in the Territory from time to time?
 - (j) Will television sporting programs be upgraded to the equivalent of those in the states and can we expect to see video-taped replays of major sporting events as a regular feature?
 - (k) What improvements are to be made to the limited radio service?
 - (l) When will a second radio network be introduced to provide an alternative to the rural orientated third network?
 - (m) Will there be more local involvement in radio programs?
 - (n) What has happened to the pre-cyclone proposals for a short-wave radio service in the Territory?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

- (o) Will the ABC hierarchy continue to look at Darwin as a regional outpost rather than elevating it to, for example, the same status as ABC Canberra?

ANSWER

As asked, I have obtained answers to the questions from the ABC. Their answers to the questions are, seriatim:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) The current level of local radio and television output in news, public affairs, rural and sporting programs will be maintained and, as funds become available for the provision of additional staff and resources, extended.
- (c) Not until additional facilities are available.
- (d) No.
- (e) Again, the scope and frequency of locally-produced rural television programs will be extended as facilities become available.
- (f) Education programs suitable to the Northern Territory curriculum are currently being transmitted by both ABC radio and television stations in the Northern Territory. The provision of locally-produced programs is dependent upon the appropriation of additional funds to the ABC.
- (g) The target completion date for the colourisation of the Darwin television studio and the mobile outside broadcast van is September 1978.
- (h) Yes.
- (i) The ABC has no plans to produce Divine Service for television in the Northern Territory in the foreseeable future, but broadcasts of Divine Service on radio are contemplated. From time to time national documentary programs such as 'A Big Country' and 'In the Wild' will be filmed in the Northern Territory.
- (j) Live coverages of many major national and international sporting events are currently being transmitted by ABC television in the Northern Territory on the same basis as they are transmitted in all states. These will continue. The recording and replaying of local sporting events will also continue and be extended wherever possible.
- (k) See (1).
- (l) The establishment of a second ABC radio network in the Northern Territory and new radio transmitters is a matter for government decision. The ABC is not responsible for the provision of new transmission facilities. The provision of a second radio network in the Northern Territory is, however, regarded by the ABC as a matter of high priority.
- (m) Yes.
- (n) This question will be directed to the Minister for Post and Telecommunications.
- (o) The ABC recognises the changes currently taking place in the Northern Territory and the growing importance of Darwin as the centre of Territory affairs. The ABC will continue to give the development and the extension of its operations in Darwin the highest possible priority consistent with the availability of funds, staff and other resources.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

588 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND WORKS

Will he advise whether or not the sealing of an all-weather road between the Stuart Highway and Uluru National Park has been considered by his department and, if so, whether or not such a project will be included in the NT executive's proposed major rural roads development program?

ANSWER

Stage I of the sealing of the road between the Stuart Highway and Uluru National Park has been included in the government's 1978-1979 works proposals. Stage I would provide a sealed road from the Stuart Highway to the Angas Downs turn-off. Subsequent stages are proposed and it is anticipated that the road would be sealed to Uluru National Park by December 1981.

600 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND WORKS

Will he advise whether or not the sealing of an all-weather road between the Stuart Highway and Papunya, and the Stuart Highway and Yuendumu has been considered by his department, and if so, whether such a project will be included in the NT executive's proposed major rural roads development program?

ANSWER

Stage I of the sealing of the road between the Stuart Highway and Yuendumu has been included in the Government's 1978-1979 works proposals. Stage I would provide a sealed road from the Stuart Highway to near the Papunya turn-off. Subsequent stages are proposed and it is anticipated that the road would be sealed to Yuendumu by December 1982.

601 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND WORKS

Will he advise whether or not the sealing of an all-weather road between Alice Springs airport and Santa Teresa Aboriginal community has been considered by his department and, if so, whether such a project will be included in the NT executive's proposed major rural roads development program?

ANSWER

There have recently been some improvements to the road between the Alice Springs airport and Santa Teresa. These improvements included some re-alignment and gravelling. A further stage of development of the road is proposed for 1979-1980. This would be for further re-alignments and gravelling. There are no firm proposals for sealing the road at this stage.

602 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND WORKS

Will he advise whether or not the sealing of an all-weather road between Jay Creek and Hermannsburg and Areyonga has been considered by his department and, if so, whether such a project will be included in the NT executive's proposed major rural roads development program?

ANSWER

The government has included the sealing of the road between Jay Creek and Hermannsburg in its rural road development program. It is proposed the item will be included in the 1979-1980 works proposals, with an anticipated completion of November 1981. There are no firm proposals to seal the road between Hermannsburg and Areyonga at this stage.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

603 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND WORKS

Will he advise whether or not his department has considered the sealing of an all-weather road between the Jay Creek area and Glen Helen Gorge and Haasts Bluff Aboriginal community and, if so, whether such a project will be included in the NT executive's proposed rural roads development program?

ANSWER

The sealing of the road between Jay Creek and Glen Helen has been included in the government's 1978-1979 works proposals. It is anticipated the work will be completed by October 1980. There are no firm proposals to seal the road between Glen Helen and Haasts Bluff at this stage.

609 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. What action was taken by the CLP executive, on behalf of the Alice Springs abattoir, to secure part of the recent 10,000 tonne increase in Australia's quota for the Japanese beef market?
2. What representations will be made by the CLP executive to the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation concerning the freeze on meat exports recently announced?

ANSWER

1. The honourable member may be assured that when action is required of this government to assist, protect or develop primary industries in the Territory it will so act. So far as the increased Japanese meat import quota is concerned, particularly as it relates to the Alice Springs abattoir, no action was required. Of the 10,000 tonnes announced increase, Australia's share based upon traditional import allocations and subject to variation is approximately 8,000 tonnes. The additional quota is for specific cuts from lot fed cattle only and is subject to certification by the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation that the consigned beef is from this source. For reasons that should be obvious, grain feeding of cattle is not practised in the Territory. Moreover, the increases are being held against the Special Hotels quota and therefore are not subject to allocation among abattoirs along general quota distribution lines.
2. As the proposed freeze on beef imported into the USA from Australia did not eventuate, the question does not arise.

613 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER FOR HEALTH

1. Is it true that the honourable minister has had a personal communication from the personal secretary to the Treasurer, on the honourable minister's headed paper, for assistance in obtaining a licence to keep in his personal possession the Northern Rosella and Honeyeater?
2. Is it true that this person had previously been refused a licence by the department?
3. Does the honourable minister intend to accede to his request?

ANSWER

1. A letter was received by me and it requested my intervention in obtaining answers to queries relating to the obtaining of a licence to keep birds as described.
2. The person concerned had previously been refused a permit to import aviary bred birds of these species from South Australia.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

3. Yes, I did accede to his request and provided the information sought in the letter. I did not intervene in granting a licence nor was this request in the letter.

617 Mr VALE to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. What is the current dingo eradication program in pastoral areas?
2. What particular areas are currently involved?
3. How much money is budgeted for the coming financial year, and how much was budgeted in the current year for the eradication program?
4. What means are used to kill the dingoes in the eradication program?
5. What poison is used in the eradication program?
6. How does the use of this poison measure up to WHO standards?
7. In view of the overstocking on many properties the market expectations of our cattle industry, the favourable findings of CSIRO about 6 years ago regarding the dingoes actual depredations on cattle, are these eradication programs really necessary at this time and, if so, why?

ANSWER

1. No attempt is being made to eradicate the dingo. Rather the purpose is to control excess numbers when high populations of dingoes on pastoral lands cause stock losses.
2. Dingoes occur throughout all pastoral areas, but particular attention is being given to control on the Barkly Tablelands.
3. Approximately \$10,000 was available this year for dingo control and a similar figure provided for next year. Most of these funds go towards dingo scalp bonus payment. Remaining funds support the work of government officers. It is not possible to accurately estimate the funds needed to meet scalp bonus payments. It should be emphasised that the major responsibility for dingo control rests with the landholder.
4. and 5. Dingoes are shot, trapped or poisoned. Sodium fluoroacetate is the poison used by government operators. This is a very effective poison for dingoes and, when properly used, relatively selective. However, because it can also cause a hazard to people and non-target animals, this poison is only handled by trained staff and not available to private persons. Most of the cost of the aerial 1080 baiting programs is borne by the landholders.
6. As far as can be ascertained, no standard has been set by WHO.
7. Although CSIRO studies did indicate that cattle formed a very minor component of the dingo diet, dingoes do cause stock injuries and calf losses. Depending upon the viability of the cattle industry these losses will obviously vary in economic effect. However, the fact that some cattlemen, even with a depressed industry, are prepared to shoulder most of the costs associated with dingo control, indicates that they consider expenditure on dingo control necessary.

620 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What has the total amount of premium income received by Northern Territory workmen's compensation insurers in the years 1974-1975, 1975-1976 and 1976-1977?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

ANSWER

1974-1975	\$ 4,642,072.29;
1975-1976	\$ 6,801,800.47; and
1976-1977	\$ 7,514,050.48.

622 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR LANDS AND HOUSING

1. When will the Housing Commission take over departmental housing?
2. If an employee of the Northern Territory Public Service is superannuated out of the service, under what conditions will he retain a departmental house?
3. If the employee is required to pay an economic rent, will he be given the choice of moving to another house at a lower rental than the economic rent of the former departmental house?

ANSWER

1. All housing occupied by APS staff who have been or will be transferred to the NTPS will be transferred to the NT government on 1 July 1978, and vested in the NT Housing Commission.
2. and 3. To ensure the NTPS housing policy is developed with joint management and staff inputs, the Public Service Commissioner has requested the Public Service Consultative Council to examine the specific housing policies that could be applicable to the NTPS.

Until such time as recommendations have been made by means of this consultative process and accepted by the executive it would be inappropriate to give an answer which might prove misleading.

623 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND WORKS

1. Is it a fact that a fire station will be built at Berrimah?
2. Is it a fact that the Winnellie Fire Station is to be closed down and used as a mechanical workshop for the Fire Brigade?
3. What is the position of the proposed depot or station for the Fire Brigade proposed for the 14 mile?
4. What is the position of the proposed depot or station for the Fire Brigade proposed for the 19 mile?
5. Who has charge of fire prevention now in the rural area outside Darwin, the Fire Brigade or the Bush Fires Council and how far down the track does this area of control extend?
6. In the new Northern Territory Fire Brigade how many personnel will there be per head of population and what is the present ratio?

ANSWER

1. Provision has been made for a new fire station at Berrimah in the draft three year forward capital works program. A final decision on construction will not be made until studies now in progress have been completed.
2. Should the proposed Berrimah Fire Station be built it is possible that the staff of the Winnellie Fire Station could man the new station and the existing building at Winnellie could be used as a vehicle maintenance depot.
3. There is currently no proposal to build a fire station or depot in the 14 mile area.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

4. A fire station at the 19 mile is being considered as part of the draft three year forward capital works program. Again, no final decision will be made until studies in progress have been completed.
5. The NT Fire Brigade controls the area bounded by the Howard and Elizabeth Rivers extending south to about 1 km past the Noonamah rail crossing. The Bush Fires Council assumes responsibility for fire control outside this area.
6. The Fire Brigade currently employs 116 uniformed personnel, which represents a ratio of 1.2 per thousand population of the Northern Territory. There is currently no plan to make any significant change to this ratio.

625 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

After 1 July 1978 on what basis will miscellaneous assistance be granted to persons without dependants?

ANSWER

There will be no change in the arrangements for the provision of miscellaneous benefits to persons without dependants after 1 July 1978 until such time as the board of inquiry completes its investigations and report.

626 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What was the staff establishment for each department of the Northern Territory Public Service at:

- (a) 1/1/1977;
- (b) 1/7/1977;
- (c) 1/1/1978; and
- (d) 31/5/1978?

ANSWER

I draw the honourable member's attention to the Public Service Commissioner's Annual Report which provides details of approved establishment in January, July and December, 1977. The December figure would not differ from the figure of 1 January 1978 as all positions for the January transfer were approved prior to 1 January 1978.

Approved establishment for 31 May 1978 by departments was as follows:

Establishment - NTPS 31 May 1978

Department of the Chief Secretary	92
Office of Ombudsman	8
Treasury	60
Department of Law	159
Department of Community Development	263
Department of Transport and Works	215
Department of Industrial Development	19
Department of Lands and Housing	56
Department of Mines and Energy	13
NT Police	633
NT Emergency Services	16
NT Port Authority	87
Public Service Commissioner's Office	43
Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission	114
Legislative Assembly	23
Museums and Art Galleries	20
NT Housing Commission	133

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

NT Tourist Board	39
NT Electricity Commission	<u>516</u>
TOTAL	<u>2,509</u>

To place the figures in perspective, it is important to note that there is a progressive approval to increased levels of establishment to meet the transfer of positions and staff on 1 July 1978.

709 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER FOR MINES AND ENERGY

1. What was the purchase price of the 436 sq km acquired from Auvergne Station for use as a national park?
2. Who was responsible for this purchase?
3. Who owns Auvergne Station?

ANSWER

The 436 sq km of Auvergne Station required for the Keep River National Park has not yet been purchased. The Department of Administrative Services have begun work on the acquisition on behalf of the NT government but actual purchase negotiations with the owners, the Auvergne Pastoral Company have not yet begun as funds have not yet been allocated by the Northern Territory government for the purchase. It is intended to make funds available and proceed with the acquisition by agreement in 1978-1979.

741 Mr PERKINS to TREASURER

1. What price per litre is paid for the diesel fuel supplied to the Alice Springs power house?
2. How many litres of diesel fuel is it anticipated that the Alice Springs power house could consume for the year ending 30 June 1979?
3. Could the Alice Springs power station be modified to operate on coal? If so, at what cost?
4. What factors contribute to the difference between projected electricity consumption figures over the next ten years (11.5% per annum) and the projected growth in population (3.5% per annum)?
5. Does the Majority Party and/or the Electricity Commission have any plans for an education program to encourage conservation of electricity?

ANSWER

1. The price per litre is 8.28 cents effective from 15 May 1978.
2. An estimated 22,000,000 litres of diesel fuel for the year ending 30 June 1979.
3. No.
4. The projected electricity consumption figures allow for:
 - (a) increased use by existing consumers; and
 - (b) new consumers as a result of population growth.
5. The Northern Territory Electricity Commission proposes a public education program aimed at the conservation of electricity.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

757 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Can he ascertain -

- (a) what is the estimated cost of construction materials to be purchased in the Territory for use in the Nabalco extension project; and
- (b) what is the estimated cost of construction materials to be purchased outside the Territory for use in the same project?

ANSWER

No information on the Nabalco extension project is available at this time.

759 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

When will a start be made on the compilation of Northern Territory statistics on -

- (a) work accidents; and
- (b) the loss ratio of NT workmen's compensation insurers?

ANSWER

- (a) Some compilation of statistics on work accidents already takes place but is not published. The Australian Bureau of Statistics has undertaken to prepare statistics comparable with those published in other parts of Australia, separately identified for the Northern Territory. Tabulation is understood to have commenced and the initial statistics should be available in the near future.
- (b) The Premiums Advisory Committee met recently and a recommendation is understood to have been drafted for an amendment to the ordinance to provide for bi-annual returns which would enable formulation of a loss ratio calculation.

793 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

In which countries are the names of political parties permitted or required to be placed beside the names of candidates on ballot papers at elections?

ANSWER

I draw the attention of the Leader of the Opposition to Standing Order No. 90 and suggest that he does his own research.

"90. Questions may be put to an Executive Member relating to public affairs for which he accepts responsibility, to proceedings pending in the Assembly, or to any matter of administration for which he accepts responsibility."

794 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

1. How many non-English speaking children have been enrolled in government schools in the Northern Territory in each year since 1972?
2. How many migrant English teachers have been employed by the CTS for work in the Northern Territory in each year since 1972?
3. What is the percentage of migrant English teachers of the total number of teachers currently employed by the CTS in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

1. 1973 - 533 of non-English speaking origin (excluding Aborigines) enrolled.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

- 225 in child migrant program.
- 1974 - 290 receiving assistance under child migrant program.
1975 - 239 receiving assistance under child migrant program.
1976 - 351 receiving assistance under child migrant program.
1977 - 485 receiving assistance under child migrant program.
1978 - 510 receiving assistance under child migrant program.
2. Totals as at end of each year -
- 1973 - 1 supervisor, 1 (adult programs), 8 (child programs)
1974 - 1 supervisor, 3 (adult programs), 10 (child programs)
1975 - 1 supervisor, 2 (adult programs), 13 (child programs)
(included 4 Timorese teachers employed third term to work at the Bilingual School for Timorese children).
1976 - 1 supervisor, 3 (adult programs), 13 (child programs)
1977 - 1 S.E.A. migrant education, 1 E.A. adult migrant education, 1 senior teacher primary programs (Darwin area), 1 senior teacher, child and adult programs (NT outside of Darwin area).
2.5 adult programs, 17.5 child programs.
1978 - Senior positions as for 1977.
3.5 adult programs, 16.5 child programs.
3. 1.6%. This percentage includes teachers working in the adult program.

816 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is it true that conditions of service for new recruits into the Northern Territory Public Service have not yet been finalised?
2. If not, is it intended that conditions for new recruits will differ from transferred employees?
3. If the conditions of service have been determined for new recruits, in what way do they differ from conditions of service for transferred staff?

ANSWER

The answers to parts 1 and 2 of the above question are the same as those provided to question No. 814.

In regard to part 3 of the question, as previously stated, conditions of service of new recruits to the service have been finalised and they do differ from transferred employees in some respects. Those conditions of service that do differ, with their differences, are as follows:

District allowance - While localities and rates have uniform application, the provisions referring to married and single employees, as applicable to transferred employees, have been omitted. The higher rate of district allowance is now paid to new recruits only if they are maintaining dependants and a dependant is defined as a person who is in receipt of income less than the minimum weekly adult wage including district allowance.

Allowance where employee is unable to obtain departmental quarters - differs from a transferred employee's conditions in that the allowance is only payable in respect of claimed dependants who are fully dependent and not just because an employee is married.

Reimbursement of fares on leave -

- (a) new recruits wherever located in the Territory have the same destinations entitlements whereas transferred employees have defined travel destinations according to location;
- (b) new recruits are permitted to travel on leave to Hobart and Canberra; most transferred employees are not;

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

- (c) new recruits make no contribution, transferred employees in most cases do;
- (d) there is no automatic entitlement to the grant of a fare in the first twelve months of service. Transferred employees have some rights in this respect;
- (e) fares are only granted to new recruits' dependants who are not entitled to fares assistance from any other source and are not in receipt of income in excess of the weekly adult minimum wage. Transferred employees have a right to fares for spouse and children irrespective of their income and employment conditions.

Temperate Clothing Allowance -

- (a) Payment of the allowance is restricted to those employees who have not travelled outside the Territory for any purpose in the preceding thirty months. Transferred employees have no such restriction but must have lived and/or worked in the Territory for at least two years;
- (b) applications will not be considered from employees who are required as a normal part of their duties to travel to a temperate locality. This provision does not apply to transferred employees;
- (c) the Public Service Commissioner will determine the amount of the allowance and the conditions applicable in each case. The rate payable to a transferred employee is fixed as are the conditions.

818 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR MINES AND ENERGY

- 1. In what specific ways does the NT Tourist Board or its staff assist industry in the Territory?
- 2. What specific support has been given by the NT Tourist Board to the Regional Tourist Promotion Associations throughout the Territory, both financially and physically?

ANSWER

- 1. Assistance is provided to the tourist industry in the development, marketing and advertising of facilities and tour operations. Such assistance includes the initial production of advertising brochures for new enterprises and those specifically in need of promotion, provided their services meet necessary requirements and standards.
Consultation and advice is provided to operators seeking guidance in the development of new tour products. Since the appointment of a regional manager in Darwin in July last year the Tourist Board has initiated increasing assistance to the industry which will be further expanded in its regional development role.
- 2. The five main roles of regional tourist associations are:
 - (a) To bring more people into the region as tourists.
 - (b) To assist people when they come into the region, by providing them with all relevant information.
 - (c) To obtain more development for the region in the form of additional tourist facilities.
 - (d) To find ways and means of improving existing facilities.
 - (e) To educate the population of the region on the value and importance of tourism to the local economy.

To assist such associations to achieve these objectives grants were provided last year to all Northern Territory Associations for the following purposes:

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

- (a) Provision of tourist information services.
- (b) Employment of casual, part-time or full-time tourist information officer.
- (c) Improvement and/or development of visitor facilities.

Grants were provided in 1977-1978 on the following basis:

- (a) Initial grant of \$1,500.
- (b) Up to a further \$2,500 on the basis of \$1 for every \$2 subscribed by the private sector and municipality within the region.
- (c) For year only, up to \$1,000 for purchase office equipment.

	Darwin	Katherine	Gove	Tennant Creek	Alice Springs
(a)	1,500.00	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
(b)	4,000.00	*	-	-	4,000
(c)	989.07	*	-	-	467.87
Other grants (i)	485.00	-	-	-	-
(ii)	1,040.28	-	-	-	-
(iii)	2,000.00	-	-	-	-
	10,014.35	1,500	1,500	1,500	5,967.85

* Grant approved for 1978-1979

- (i) Contribution to official welcome (wholesalers) Asian travel agents
- (ii) "Back to Darwin" - secretarial services
- (iii) "Back to Darwin" - secretarial services and promotional costs.

Physical support provided included:

Employment of limited tenure staff to assist Tourist Promotion Associations. Provision of staff escort on Asian wholesalers travel agents familiarisation and promotional tour of Top End. Printing and provision of promotional material, entry forms, programs etc.

819 Mr. PERKINS to MINISTER FOR MINES AND ENERGY

1. Does the NT Tourist Board propose to increase staff? If so, to what extent?
2. Why was the NT Tourist Board Annual Report for 1976-1977 not tabled until June 1978?
3. What specific development projects has the Tourist Board sponsored or assisted with in the Top End of the Territory?
4. How much assistance, information and help in travel is given to Territory residents by the staff of the tourist bureaux?

ANSWER

1. The staffing of the Northern Territory Tourist Board is currently under review and a submission will be shortly sent to the Northern Territory Public Service Commissioner.
2. The report from Commonwealth Audit was not received at Tourist Board head office until mid-December. The honourable minister was supplied with all information pertaining to the Annual Report mid-January, however, the Tourist Board was unable to have the actual report printed until just prior to Easter. Printed copies were forwarded in April for

presentation during the next sittings of the Legislative Assembly.

3. Until the advent of self-government in the Northern Territory the Tourist Board has been limited in its capacity to undertake or sponsor specific development projects in the Northern Territory.

The board has, however, continued to develop the marketing of tour products and operations in Top End, including the introduction and promotion of domestic air package tours.

4. The tourist bureaux situated in Darwin and Alice Springs have full facilities to provide assistance, information and help as well as reservation and booking services to Territory residents and visitors for travel both within the Northern Territory and within Australia. Neither tourist bureau sells international travel.

820 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR MINES AND ENERGY

I refer to the NT Tourist Board Report for 1976-1977 and ask:

1. What results have been achieved by the NT Tourism Development Study mentioned in the report?
2. Who is conducting this study?
3. What role, if any, has the Tourist Board played in the study?
4. When can we expect any reports from this study?

ANSWER

1. The Northern Territory Tourism Development Study has so far identified origin of Northern Territory visitors, their attitudes towards Northern Territory attractions, mode of transport, age and sex, and purpose of trip be it holiday or business.

The objectives of the study are to define existing facilities, identify deficiencies and future development opportunities for tourism in the Northern Territory.

2. The study was undertaken by the Commonwealth Departments of the Northern Territory and Industry and Commerce plus the Northern Territory Department of Transport and Industry and the Northern Territory Tourist Board with the assistance of the Chamber of Industries.

After the transfer of powers on 1 July, responsibility for the study passed to the Northern Territory government.

3. The Tourist Board has played an active role in the study. The director or his delegate was a member of the study's steering committee which was charged with the overall supervision of the study.

The board also supplied a representative on the working committee which was charged with the actual compilation and gathering of relevant data.

4. The first progress report was released in September 1977.

821 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER FOR MINES AND ENERGY

What feasibility studies were carried out prior to the decision to set up a Tourist Board office in Cairns?

What were the results of those studies?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

ANSWER

There has been no decision made to establish a Tourist Board office in Cairns in the immediate future.

Currently under examination is a proposal to appoint a local agent for the Tourist Board. This agent would handle Northern Territory inquiries and reservations and if there is sufficient demand for such service the Tourist Board will re-examine the situation with a view to physically establishing an office in Cairns.

822 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

How many old-age pensioners are residents of the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

2,208 age pensions were being paid in the Northern Territory as at 30 June 1978.

824 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Who are the trustees of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust in the Territory?
2. Who appoints them?
3. What is their term of office?
4. Are any efforts made to ensure that the trustees are representative of the community?

ANSWER

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust is an autonomous body and does not come within the area of responsibility of this government.

However, I recognise that there may be considerable public interest in any organisation of this nature, and therefore provide the following information for the benefit of the honourable member:

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, which was established in Australia in 1965, is an autonomous body which carries the responsibility of perpetuating the memory of Sir Winston Churchill. As a national body, it is basically controlled by a board of directors headed by the National Director, Sir William Kilpatrick, and consisting of a board of directors nominated by the national body without regard to state or territory representation.

The trust has a series of regional committees in the states and territories which are for the purpose of interviewing and nominating candidates to be considered at a national level when the fellowships are allocated annually.

The members of the Northern Territory Regional Committee are as follows:

Chairman: E.F. Dwyer

Members: J. Bowditch
J.W. Fisher
R. Harris
H.H. Garner
G.A. Letts
I.F. McGregor.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

The members are appointed or terminated at the pleasure of the national body and there is no established term of office. Although there is no requirement for specific areas of the community to be represented, the Territory committee has always attempted to get a broad cross-section and I think you will agree that the presently constituted Northern Territory committee does have that broad cross-section.

825 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER FOR LANDS AND HOUSING

1. Why have no approvals been notified in the Gazette since 1 January 1978 in respect of applications made pursuant to section 38A of the Town Planning Ordinance, to change the zoning of land situated in the Darwin area, despite the fact that several parties have made such applications?
2. When might people who have made applications since 1 January 1978 pursuant to section 38A of the Town Planning Ordinance, to change the zoning of land situated in the Darwin area, expect their applications to be dealt with?
3. Under what provision of the Town Planning Ordinance was the chairman of the Town Planning Board able to insert a notice in the Northern Territory News on 30 March 1978 which stated, inter alia, that the board "cannot consider applications to amend the Darwin Town Plan 1977 currently on public exhibition, until the Plan is approved"?

ANSWER

1. No approvals have been notified in the Gazette since 1 January 1978 in respect of applications made in the Darwin area pursuant to section 38A of the Town Planning Ordinance, because the Town Planning Board has deferred decisions on applications made since 1 January 1978 until the 1977 Darwin Town Plan, which was placed on exhibition on that date, has been approved.
2. Applications made pursuant to section 38A since 1 January 1978 have been dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the ordinance. The Town Planning Board will be considering the applications further as soon as the plan is approved.
3. The Town Planning Board is a body corporate and no specific statutory authority is required for the board and its chairman to advise the public on matters of public interest involving the administration of the ordinance.

829 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR LANDS AND HOUSING

1. How many pensioners are on the pensioners waiting list for accommodation with the Northern Territory Housing Commission?
2. How long is the waiting time for pensioners to be accommodated?
3. Is it intended to have a display of the waiting list of pensioners in the same manner as before the cyclone?
4. Are there any restrictions on pensioners eligible for accommodation in Tuckwell Court and, if so, what are they?

ANSWER

1. The total number of pensioners on the waiting list for accommodation is currently 86. This figure includes invalid, widow, war service, deserted wives and aged pensioners. The number of aged pensioners is approximately 35.
2. The waiting time is approximately 12 - 15 months.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

3. Yes, it is intended to have a display of the waiting list of pensioners.
4. Pensioners eligible for Tuckwell Court must be aged pensioners; there are no further restrictions. Aged pensioners are also allocated accommodation in other flat complexes, Wirrina, Kurringal, Carinya and Hudson Fysh.

832 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR MINES AND ENERGY

1. How many betting shops were operating in the Northern Territory on 1/6/1978?
2. In what localities were these shops operating, and how many were there in each locality?
3. How many full-time employees were working in Northern Territory betting shops on 1/6/1978?
4. How many part-time employees were working in Northern Territory betting shops on 1/6/1978?

ANSWER

1. On 1/6/1978 there were 32 betting shops operating in the Northern Territory.
2. These 32 shops were operating in Darwin (19), Alice Springs (5), Tennant Creek (3), Katherine (3), Nhulunbuy (1) and Alyangula (1).
3. On 1/6/1978 there were 44 full-time employees working in Northern Territory betting shops.
4. On 1/6/1978 there were 88 part-time employees working in Northern Territory betting shops.

833 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How much by way of travelling allowance was paid to each member of the Legislative Assembly from 1 July 1977 to 13 August 1977?
2. How much by way of travelling allowance was paid to each member of the Legislative Assembly from 13 August 1977 to 30 June 1978?

ANSWER

Travelling allowance paid to members of the Legislative Assembly -

1. 1 July 1977 to 13 August 1977

Miss E.J. Andrew	Nil
Mr M.J. Ballantyne	\$ 315.00
Mr N. Dondas	Nil
Mr P.A.E. Everingham	Nil
Mr R.J. Kentish	Nil
Mrs A.D. Lawrie	Nil
Dr G.A. Letts	\$1,935.00
Mr G.E. Manuell	\$ 225.00
Mr J.L.S. MacFarlane	\$ 885.00
Mr M.B. Perron	\$ 168.00
Mr D.L. Pollock	\$ 405.00
Mr J.M. Robertson	\$ 389.00
Mr R. Ryan	Nil
Mr R.M. Steele	Nil
Mr G.E. Tambling	\$ 123.00
Mr H. Tungutalum	\$ 90.00
Mr I.L. Tuxworth	\$2,044.00
Mr R.W.S. Vale	\$ 225.00
Mr R.J. Withnall	\$ 225.00

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

2. 14 August 1977 to 30 June 1978

Mr M.J. Ballantyne	\$3,285.00
Mr B. Collins	\$1,935.00
Mr N. Dondas	\$ 90.00
Mr J.K.R. Doolan	\$ 90.00
Ms J. D'Rozario	Nil
Mr P.A.E. Everingham	\$3,150.00
Mr T. Harris	Nil
Mr J.M. Isaacs	\$ 180.00
Mrs A.D. Lawrie	\$ 45.00
Mr J.L.S. MacFarlane	\$3,780.00
Mr R. C. Oliver	\$2,205.00
Mrs P.F. O'Neil	Nil
Mrs C.N. Padgham-Purich	\$ 45.00
Mr N.G. Perkins	\$2,430.00
Mr M.B. Perron	\$1,035.00
Mr J.M. Robertson	\$6,345.00
Mr R.M. Steele	\$2,880.00
Mr I.L. Tuxworth	\$7,605.00
Mr R.W.S. Vale	\$3,105.00

834 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What arrangements are made for workmen's compensation coverage for Northern Territory Public Service employees?

ANSWER

The Compensation (Commonwealth Government Employees) Amendment Act 1978 which received royal assent on 22 June 1978 and came into operation on 1 July 1978 ensures the continued application after 1 July 1978 of the Compensation (Commonwealth Government Employees) Act 1971 to employees of the Public Service of the Northern Territory.

835 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND WORKS

1. What was the cost of spray painting the Dennis and International appliances of the Fire Brigade from red to yellow?
2. What was the price quoted per hour?
3. Were tenders called for the contract?

ANSWER

1. The actual cost of respraying each appliance is not known exactly because the work was done in conjunction with major rehabilitation for which respraying would have been required in any case. The estimated cost for spraying only is \$800 for the Dennis and \$1,600 for the International.
2. The hourly rate was \$8.00.
3. The work was done by Stuart Panel Works under an existing period contract for which tenders had originally been publicly called.

839 Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Was a meeting of government members of the Legislative Assembly held in Alice Springs on or about 14 July 1978?
2. Who paid the first class air fares of government members, not being office holders, who travelled to Alice Springs at that time?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

ANSWER

1. Yes.
2. The Northern Territory government.

844 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

On what date or dates did he lend \$2m to the trading banks in Darwin; what was the interest rate and what was the duration of each loan?

ANSWER

I am not going to release information publicly pertaining to this government's investment program. Honourable members will appreciate that, in using an investment market, the government must adhere to normal business procedures whereby it would be highly unusual to advise where such money was placed and at what rate. I do not propose doing it on behalf of this government. If the Leader of the Opposition seeks to infer some inappropriate action on behalf of myself in placing these funds, I am sure the Auditor-General for the Northern Territory, who is in fact the Commonwealth Auditor-General, will bring these matters to the public's attention and this Assembly's attention in due course.

By the way of further comment on the question, the Leader of the Opposition obviously does have some wrong information. I am not sure where his spy actually is but the information he has been quoting of late as to how much money has been placed with banks in Darwin both individually and collectively is quite wrong. His allegation that money was placed in the banking market in the Northern Territory with a view to easing liquidity in the Northern Territory is quite false. His statement in the press recently, that I had to my horror found out after the investment that the money had gone to the states, was also quite untrue. It was no surprise to me that the banks in the Northern Territory could not lend enormous sums of money on short term within the Northern Territory. It was quite clear that such money would have to go outside the Northern Territory to be used in the market at all. I suggest the Leader of the Opposition should ask his spy for some more detailed information if he seeks to have any credibility for his allegations.

845 Mr DONDAS to TREASURER

Is he able to advise me which department is administering Commonwealth government home sales for Commonwealth public servants? Is he also able to tell me if the policy for such home sales is the same as it was before 1 July?

ANSWER

If an option to purchase a Commonwealth government house was given prior to 30 June, then the sale would proceed through the Home Finance Trustee. If the option to purchase arose after 1 July, those sales are now proceeding through the home sales section of the Department of Administrative Services. As far as I can ascertain, the Commonwealth home sales scheme will remain the same at least for the time being.

846 Mr PERKINS to TREASURER

On the day or days that he lent the \$2m to each of the trading banks in Darwin, did he actually check with all or any of the nine official money market dealers to determine whether better rates and conditions were available on the official market?

ANSWER

I refer to my earlier answer to the honourable Leader of the Opposition's question on the same subject and decline to answer that question.

847 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Could he outline to this House the present activities of the board of inquiry into welfare services?

ANSWER

All honourable members will, of course, be aware that the composition of the board of inquiry has now been settled. The secretary of the board of inquiry has issued a public notice that submissions are requested by 22 September this year. The board will naturally be disinclined to discard any submissions made after that date but in order to catalyse interest in the public mind, a date had to be given and 22 September has been chosen as a suitable deadline for people to prepare their submissions to the board of inquiry.

I would point out to the honourable members and to the public in general that the Department of Community Development will make its officers available to anyone in the community and any group in the community which requires assistance in the preparation of any submissions. The terms of reference of the inquiry are of course very complex and wide ranging, and it would be quite normal to expect that many community groups would need some significant assistance in the preparation of their submissions to the inquiry.

The secretary to the inquiry, under instructions from its chairman, has also advised the public that the word "evidence" will not be used in the normal sense. We have picked up the spirit of the words used by both the honourable member for Arnhem and the honourable member for Nightcliff and the inquiry will be undertaking its task more along the lines of conversations or discussions with people.

The inquiry has now been launched and as I say, the department will make itself available to assist community groups. But there are two things I think community groups must do: firstly, they must indicate as soon as they possibly can to the inquiry their intention to make representations and their intention, of course, to have discussions with the board of inquiry itself. The second thing I think the board of inquiry particularly wants from the community is an indication by the community as to where the inquiry should go for its public hearings. It is, of course, quite outside the competence of anyone to have a full understanding of where all the problems are. I suppose if they knew that, there would be no need for the inquiry. So I would urge people and groups around the Territory to contact the secretary of the inquiry, Mr MacDonald, with the advice that it needs to carry out its functions properly, and that is advice of their intention to make representations to the inquiry and to let it know where it should travel in the course of its inquiry.

848 Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Was the money that he recently invested in trading banks in Darwin money which had already been invested elsewhere and, if so, did the withdrawal of that money cause a loss of interest to the Territory government?

ANSWER

The Opposition does not seem to have gotten the message that it would be inappropriate for me to disclose the details of the government's investment program. It is a program which is quite normal within governments; it is done all over Australia. The main purpose of the investment of funds is, of course, the maximisation of interest and earnings, for the Northern Territory government in this instance. We make no apologies for

not disclosing details of the information. The information is not going to be displayed publicly. These programs will, of course, be on going probably forever as long as the Northern Territory has a treasury. The Opposition will no doubt get snippets of information from time to time in the future on the subject of investments but questions on that subject will not be answered.

849 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Could he tell me when the telephone communications installation from Groote Eylandt to Gove by tropo-scatter will be completed?

ANSWER

I understand the equipment is being tested this week and providing these tests are satisfactory, I am advised that the system should be in operation by the end of the week.

850 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

In view of the answer just given, can he explain to the Assembly why it is that the Northern Territory government gave \$771,000 to the Alice Springs council for the building of a council chambers when that council was not likely to require that money for another 12 to 18 months, thus giving the value of the interest not to the Northern Territory government but to the Alice Springs city council?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the history of the move by the Alice Springs council to obtain funds to build a civic centre in Alice Springs should be well known to the Opposition but, quite obviously, it is not and that is to their discredit.

The original agreement setting up the Alice Springs corporation of course, included an agreement by the Commonwealth at that time to assist in the establishment of a civic centre for Alice Springs to provide reasonable accommodation for the town corporation. However, as time went by and costs escalated from time to time, an agreement was reached as to how much subsidy the government should pay to the Alice Springs corporation. By that time further proceedings had gone on; figures had been obtained and designs drawn up, and of course, the costs got out of hand. This was during times of much high inflation than we have at the moment. However, there was still high inflation and each time the Alice Springs corporation came to make a firm decision on building its civic centre, it found the funds that were able to be provided, or which were agreed upon by the federal government to be provided, were insufficient and so a fresh application would have to be made, or was made on a regular basis. I am sure the Alice Springs corporation got pretty fed up with the whole deal and I think justly so.

What the Northern Territory government decided to do, rather than procrastinate and defer this matter any longer, was to agree with the Alice Springs town corporation that a sum of money would be provided by the government to assist in establishing a civic centre, that it would be paid in a lump sum to the corporation so that inflationary aspects could be countered by the corporation by investing the money itself and, thereby, there would be no further case for it to come to the Northern Territory government for additional cost increases as a result of inflation. This is a similar basis, Mr Speaker, as the Northern Territory government has with the Commonwealth government, inasmuch as we are getting sums in advance of our requirements and are able to offset some of the effects of inflation

through investment. I think it was a commendable move by the Northern Territory government to have taken the reins on this matter and made a firm decision to end a situation which has been going on for many years in Alice Springs, a totally unsatisfactory situation which emanated from an inflexible financial situation which prevailed in the Northern Territory under the Commonwealth government. I am surprised that the Labor Opposition would see this as a poor move and as bad administration, and I am sure the people of Alice Springs would hardly agree with them.

851 Mr DONDAS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it true that a direction has been given to the Electricity Commissioner not to disconnect the supply of electricity of consumers who have outstanding accounts with the Department of the Northern Territory prior to 1 July?

ANSWER

The short answer is yes.

852 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it a fact that the Northern Territory Fire Brigade will be allowed to quote on the maintenance and service of fire protection equipment for the Northern Territory when tenders are called in September 1978? That would mean that as a semi-governmental body they are quoting in direct competition with private enterprise.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I think that is quite incorrect, I do not believe they have the legal ability to quote against outside contractors. There is a story, though, that they do wish to do some of the maintenance and work themselves as opposed to letting it all go out to contract. So there is a fair chance that they will take a slice of the work and let the rest out. That is my understanding of it. I am quite happy to go and check it out, and give the member the full details on it.

853 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of his accepted liaison responsibility for the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, what is being done in a concrete, not consultative, way for the Aboriginals who are camped at the Howard Springs dump?

ANSWER

I am unable to answer that question at the moment. I will seek the information from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and attempt to provide the answer tomorrow.

854 Mrs O'NEIL to TREASURER

I remind him of his recent criticisms of the Darwin City Council regarding the untidy state of the city area. I now ask whether he is aware that \$130,000 of government money has been wasted spray painting Elcom vehicles? If he is so aware, I ask why he did not ensure that this money was used for a more worthwhile purpose, such as the beautification of Territory centres?

ANSWER

I am not sure of the actual figures but I am sure the figure quoted by

the honourable member for Fannie Bay of \$130,000 for respraying Northern Territory Electricity Commission vehicles is quite incorrect which does not surprise me at all. I suggest that, if she has any particular complaints about the expenditure of that money, she direct a question to the appropriate minister and seek an explanation.

855 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Why is approximately \$2m being spent on a contract to upgrade the power supply in the Nightcliff area without undergrounding it at the same time?

ANSWER

I have no up-to-date information, whether this is a firm proposal or not, but I will try to get that information and give it to the honourable member today.

856

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has a time limit been set for the restoration of historical buildings in the Port Darwin area?

ANSWER

This area actually overlaps into another portfolio. However, there has been no specific time limit put on the restoration of any historic buildings in the Port Darwin area but talks are being held with the National Trust in the near future on proposals it has for the use of various sites in the Darwin area and the materials on those sites which resulted from damage by the Cyclone Tracy. So it is envisaged that over a period in the near future a plan will be evolved for the restoration of those sites that are going to be restored and who is going to be in charge of those sites in the future and matters of such detail.

857 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Can he advise the House when the Opposition is likely to receive answers to the 37 questions still on the notice paper in relation to Willeroo?

ANSWER

As far as I am aware, all questions that have been asked of me have been answered and I expect they are very close to being presented to the members who asked those questions.

858 Mr DONDAS to TREASURER

What is the current waiting period for persons seeking housing loans from the Home Finance Trustee?

ANSWER

The current waiting period for the \$20,000 loan is between eight and ten weeks from the date of application, provided there are no particular problems with the application concerned.

859 Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

In his forthcoming budget will he recognise the Territory's unemployment problem and will he therefore allocate money for specific job creation

schemes which will assist groups that are particularly affected by unemployment, such as school leavers and Aborigines?

ANSWER

I suggest the honourable member wait for the presentation of the Northern Territory budget to find out.

860 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

I have asked this question on several occasions earlier. Now that he has direct responsibility for the Northern Territory Police Force, is it his intention that members of that force in uniform be identified either by name or number?

ANSWER

I have had direct responsibility for the Northern Territory Police Force since last September and I do not recall the honourable member for Night-cliff asking me this question previously, although I certainly would not pretend that my memory is exhaustive on the subject; she may have. Certainly I have not given the matter any consideration since I took up political responsibility for the administration of the Police Force. I will now turn my attention to it and consult with the Police Commissioner and the police associations, both the Commissioned Officers Association and Police Other Ranks Association, to ascertain their attitudes and will then make a decision on the matter. However, I would say at this stage that I think it would now be almost two years since the police ceased wearing numbers on their shirts. I cannot recall, in my association with the legal profession until last September and in my political career since then, that there has been any occasion when any inconvenience has been caused to any member of the public by the fact that police officers were not wearing numbers on their shirts.

861 Mr PERKINS to TREASURER

How does he propose to boost the flagging consumer and business confidence in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

It is the member's own statement that we have a flagging consumer and business interest in the Northern Territory and I would seek that he justify the statement before expecting an answer.

862 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Could he advise how much money was spent on respraying the Electricity Commission vehicles and could he also advise why it was necessary to spend this money on changing the colour and why this matter could not have been left until the Electricity Commission was issued with new vehicles which could have been painted in the appropriate colour?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the exact amount. I was advised that it was in the vicinity of \$18,000 but I would stand corrected on that. I was advised that the reason for the colour change was so that the vehicles could be more readily identified away from their orange brothers. As for the question why it could not have been delayed until they got new vehicles, it was the mad scramble before 30 June to get money spent. That will not exist any more in the Northern Territory but certainly it did exist prior

to 30 June. That was money that would have gone back to the federal Treasurer.

863 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Apart from the three return fares per year for which they are eligible now, what other financial help do the parents of children on outback stations receive when they must send their children away from home for primary and secondary education?

ANSWER

The honourable member's question is a very complex one which requires considerable research. I will undertake to have that research done and provide an answer, probably not during the course of this sittings but as soon as I possibly can. I would, however, advise the House that both myself and the Chief Minister have been in communication with the Department of Education recently expressing our concern as to what we believe is the inadequacy of these special provisions being made available to rural people. I am quite sure the Chief Minister is determined, and I certainly am, to have this matter thoroughly examined between now and the time when the function of education becomes a responsibility of this government. I can assure rural people that, within whatever financial priorities we have, their deprivation in terms of education as a result of their isolation will be looked after to the fullest extent by our government at that time.

864 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he inform the House why there has been such a long delay in the signing of a lease agreement between the Northern Territory Port Authority and V.B. Perkins? He will note that I have had a question on the notice paper from 7 March 1978 about this matter.

ANSWER

Yes, we must confess to some delay. Something like eight to nine years have gone by without Perkins getting a lease. Of course, it was not our responsibility until we took over the administration of the Port Authority. We have tried many times to grant a lease to the Perkins Company. At present I understand the ball is back in his court. We have given him the final declaration of our requirements in respect of the lease and it is now up to him and his lawyers to come back to us inside the next 60 days, or we will look at alternative action.

865 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When will the Bagot speedway be relocated? Is it likely to be relocated before the next dry season?

ANSWER

It is unlikely that the speedway will be relocated before next dry season. Unless a great deal of money is poured into the exercise, I doubt that it could be built before the next dry season. However, negotiations are proceeding with the speedway people with a view to a new site for the Darwin speedway. It is hoped that, in resiting the speedway, we can also provide sufficient land in the same area for other motor sports such as drag racing, a motor racing circuit, go-cart racing and the like. We can perhaps create a motor sports complex situated near enough to the population so that it will be patronised, yet far enough away that we will not have the problems we have with the Bagot Park

speedway at the present time. Unfortunately, I do not foresee the speedway being relocated between now and the next dry season.

866 Mr DONDAS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What is the current waiting period for housing for both Housing Commission and NT public servant applicants?

ANSWER

I am informed that the waiting period for a Housing Commission house at present is about ten to twelve months and the waiting period for Northern Territory public servants staff housing is somewhere between six to ten months. Both these periods can vary with the circumstances involved in a particular application. They also depend on the speed at which the restoration and construction of houses is being completed. The Housing Commission is at present still restoring many of its houses damaged during the cyclone. They are coming off onto stream for reallocation at a fairly rapid rate. Times can change for various applicants but that gives the honourable member a rough idea of current waiting periods.

867 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware that the Church of England is still waiting for a reply from the Minister for the Northern Territory regarding the fate of Carpentaria College which has been offered back to the department by the church? If he is aware of this, what steps can he take to expedite the process?

ANSWER

The Church of England can stop waiting for a reply from the Minister for the Northern Territory because the matter is now in the hands of the Northern Territory government since 1 July and our Treasury...

Mrs Lawrie: They do not know that.

Mr PERRON: In reply to the interjection, they should realise that virtually the whole of the Northern Territory has been vested in the Northern Territory government and it has taken over all contracts, agreements and loans existing between various persons and the Commonwealth. At present, treasury officers are having talks with officers of the Department of Law to seek legal advice on the appropriate course of action to take back from the Church of England the lease on which Carpentaria College is situated. I would hope there would be an early resolution to this matter now that it is in the hands of Northern Territory officers.

868 Mr DONDAS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I expressed some concern at the last sittings of this Assembly regarding the stormwater drainage system located at Darwin Community College. Is he able to advise me what protective measures have been taken to prevent the entry into the pipe system of children playing in the area and can he assure me that positive protective steps will be taken before the next wet?

ANSWER

I can offer that assurance. The design should have been completed yesterday and construction should start as soon as that is confirmed.

869 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he explain to the Assembly why the Mining (Gove Peninsula Nabalco Agreement) Ordinance which passed through this Assembly has not received assent in the light of the statement he made to this Assembly that without that particular ordinance, there would be no agreement?

ANSWER

There are some intricate matters of law involved in answering this question and I would propose to have a written response for the Leader of the Opposition later this day.

870 Mr DONDAS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I believe a submission has been forwarded to him by a Darwin businessman to build a car park for 450 cars at the rear of the Victoria Hotel. Is he able to advise me if a decision has been made regarding this application?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any application having been received by my office or indeed the town planning section for the car park mentioned. A meeting was being arranged between the city corporation and ourselves to talk about a potential multi-storey car park in the central business district of Darwin a month or so ago. The meeting was cancelled by the city corporation before it got under way and we are now waiting for another meeting to be convened to discuss this matter. Other than that, I have no further details at all for the honourable member.

871 Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Can he now confirm whether the Northern Territory will be a participant in the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory will participate in the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement or an agreement along similar lines but possibly not for the current financial year. Unfortunately, the matter has not been able to be completely resolved between our own officers and officers of the Commonwealth Treasury. At present, we are still being funded for housing in the same manner as we were funded in the past: in the Northern Territory's global vote we will receive an allocation for the Housing Commission's house construction program. However, I have the Housing Commission doing some work on proposals to introduce schemes within the current funding arrangements of the Northern Territory that would be somewhat similar as far as the purchaser and renter is concerned to the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement. I understand there is no particular obstacle in achieving this. However, there is a fair bit of work involved and I will be making public announcements when I get decisions on the subject.

872 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Does he anticipate that the proposed arterial road between Ludmilla and Fannie Bay will commence this financial year?

ANSWER

I will provide a reply to that a little bit later.

873 Mr DONDAS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What support is the government providing to the Italian community for the Italian festival year?

ANSWER

The Department of Community Development, in conjunction with the Arts Council of the Northern Territory, is sponsoring a member of the Italian community to attend the Brisbane conference which will be the steering conference of the festival year for the Italian community. I would anticipate that there will be additional assistance available from time to time through the Office of Ethnic Affairs if the Italian community would wish to avail itself of that. The specific assistance given at this stage is an air fare for that person to travel to the conference. They would be more than welcome to liaise with officers of my department in the future should they require any further help.

875 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Would he agree with Senator Withers who said in the Senate in 1975 that "a refusal of information is the first step towards tyranny and that people denied information cannot judge the facts"? In the light of that and in the light of the answer that he gave to my question yesterday, when will he provide the Opposition with answers to questions on Willeroo?

Mr EVERINGHAM: A point of order, Mr Speaker! The question seeks an expression of opinion and is, in my view, out of order under the Standing Orders.

876 Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can he inform the House of any progress made with the revision of the Mining Ordinance?

ANSWER

Officers from the Department of Mines and Energy, formerly the Mines Branch of the Department of the Northern Territory, have been working for nearly two years on the principle and preparing the groundwork for a new mining ordinance. The progress made to date, as far as I am concerned, is satisfactory in that the department has prepared a paper based on the principles that will be incorporated in the bill. This paper will be circulated to members of the House and to people in the industry and to anybody else who feels they have an interest in any new mining legislation, so that input can be obtained at an early stage towards the formulation of the ordinance.

Mr Speaker, there are two points I would like to point out. The first one is that very often in this House we get to a stage with legislation where the House would like to change or bend a principle that is embodied in the bill by an amendment in the committee stage or whatever and very often we defeat the purpose that we set out to achieve by doing this. One of the reasons we are going to print this at an early stage is so that the principles and the groundwork can be established at a very early stage and there will be no hassling or trying to bend the system at a later stage in committee to try and achieve an end that we might think is desirable.

I believe it is also important, Mr Speaker, that there be a general consensus on this type of legislation because, in the interests of the Northern Territory and in the interest of having a stable mining industry, it is not acceptable or satisfactory to this government or to the industry as a whole to have legislation that is controversial and will, in fact, be changed because a change in government can change the rules under which the industry operates. One way we feel we could overcome a lot of this is to have these basic principles discussed fairly widely at an early stage.

Mr Speaker, the very difficult problem with this exercise is the printing aspect of it. There will not be an unlimited supply of material available but if honourable members would like copies or have people who would like to receive copies of it, I would be grateful if they would let me know.

877 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it true that he does not intend to answer the questions on Willeroo which are on the notice paper, thus denying the public the chance to

assess the facts about that proposed purchase?

ANSWER

The short answer is no.

878 Mr DONDAS to TREASURER

When will the next Darwin residential land auction be held and is he also able to indicate when more flat sites will be made available?

ANSWER

It is expected that there will be a land auction held in October in Darwin, with approximately 38 R1 blocks put to auction and an undetermined number of R2 blocks. The new planning schedules that are in use at the moment do not really have a specification for flats as such, as we have now changed to R2 and R3 zoning, and R1 is a medium density zoning which would probably satisfy the honourable member's question.

879 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware that the Housing Commission has demanded a sum of \$35 from certain prospective tenants in addition to the normal fortnight's rent in advance before these prospective tenants will be placed in accommodation?

ANSWER

No, Mr Speaker, I am not aware of the figure that the honourable member has mentioned. However, I will endeavour to seek the information from the commission and the reasons for requesting this additional sum of money, if it is a fact.

880 Mr VALE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Can he advise when the presently closed school at Napperby will be reopened?

ANSWER

I believe there is light at the end of the tunnel in this long and sad saga. It is my understanding that, thanks to the intervention of the Department of Administrative Services, the dispute between the owner of the property and the Department of Education has now been resolved. I would anticipate that the school will be opened within the next week or two.

881 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is it true that the plans for the proposed museum at Bullocky Point have been scrapped and that new plans will be designed by local architects?

ANSWER

The question of the future of the proposed museum at Bullocky Point is dependent firstly upon the environmental impact statement which I understand is now progressing and which I believe might well turn out to be favourable. The future of the design of that building is a matter of economic reality. The plans as proposed by the architects who were commissioned to do layout drawings for the Museums and Art Galleries Board have proven to be more costly than what the government would have ini-

tially thought. A study has been undertaken by quantity surveyors and, while we, on this side of the House, are most anxious to see a museum and art gallery of which the Northern Territory can be proud, we clearly do not want another opera house on our hands. It would seem that the plans were in fact beyond the scope of what was required in the Northern Territory and the Museums and Art Galleries Board, in consultation with Cabinet, is now examining alternatives which include the proposal to go to local architects - which I fully support in any event - for the purpose of having a competition which will provide a series of drawings and sketches and layouts to the Museums and Art Galleries Board and for the approval of this government.

It is hoped there will not be any undue delay caused by this change of arrangement. The government is most anxious to see the construction of a museum and art gallery of the Northern Territory in Darwin. It is also anxious to establish a smaller but similar venue for the display of Territory arts and museum items in Alice Springs.

882 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can the minister advise whether Urangesellschaft will be granted exploration licences in the Howard Springs area?

ANSWER

I am happy to be able to say that there will be no exploration licences issued in the Howard Springs area over an area that was originally applied for by Urangesellschaft where any leaseholders have sustained an objection. The company has been asked to reconsider its application for an exploration licence, bearing in mind the great number of objections of lessees in the area over which they applied. With this in mind, as a matter of policy, we have determined that there will be no further consideration of exploration licences in the Howard Springs area or within the 40 kilometre radius of Darwin until the future town planning provisions for this region have been determined and satisfied.

883 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware that powerlines are being erected on Berrimah Road on the opposite side of the road to where they are presently installed because the road is being widened? If he is aware of this, could he please say why cables are not being placed underground while the road is being dug up, as has already been done in some new suburbs instead of the old system of overhead powerlines?

ANSWER

I was not aware of the position that the honourable member outlines. I will have a look at the matter and report back to him as soon as I can.

884 Mr BALLANTYNE to CHIEF MINISTER

Could he tell me when the Shark Cat boat for emergency services in Gove will be available and ready for service?

ANSWER

The decision was taken some time ago as a result of a tragic incident that occurred at Marchinbar Island. I think almost all the male members of a fishing family who live at Nhulunbuy were drowned. At that time, it was necessary for the police to charter a Shark Cat that was owned locally at Nhulunbuy to assist in the search and rescue operation. The Cabinet

then had a meeting at Gove shortly afterwards and representations were received that it was necessary for a vessel of some sort to be stationed at Melville Bay for this purpose. It was decided to purchase for the emergency services section, which will be able to loan it to the police force as required, a Shark Cat of over 30 feet in length. This vessel will have a considerable range and should be adequate in most circumstances for the task of search and rescue. I understand that this type of vessel is extremely seaworthy and can put to sea in most areas.

885 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is the Northern Territory government considering introducing legislation at the request of the Corporation of the City of Darwin governing the operation of the proposed Smith Street mall to include, and I quote from the city council document: "power to control derelicts in Raintree Park required under a proposed ordinance"?

ANSWER

There is no proposal at the moment to pass express laws for the construction of the mall. The problem is that the city council has no power in its bylaws to close a street. That is the most significant concern of the city council. It has not yet approached the government at all about the mall so I am unable to comment on what its proposals might be. In fact, I am somewhat amazed that the council would go on display with a grand voice and a quite desirable program for a mall without contacting the government first about whether or not the funds were likely to be available. There has been no communication whatsoever to date about the mall so clearly the answer to the first part of the question is no.

The answer to the second part of the question would be the law already provides for the removal of people in such circumstances as the member for Fannie Bay outlined. In fact, it was at the last sitting of this Assembly that such legislation was passed under my sponsorship.

886 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Now that the Todd River bridge is nearing completion are the existing causeway and footbridge to be maintained?

ANSWER

This is a local council matter. As far as I am aware, there are no plans to abandon the maintenance of those facilities and I would expect that they would be fully maintained. However, if there is any variation to this I will soon find out. I will write to the council and find out its view on the matter.

887 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that no reminder notice of when registration is due is being sent out at the moment from Motor Vehicle Registry and, if this is so, why?

ANSWER

I am not aware that that system does prevail. It was in vogue some years ago but I do not think it has been carried on for the last few years. I am not really sure on that matter. Certainly, I have not seen a reminder notice for some years. I think that is the position today: they just do not send them out any more.

888 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

I watched a certain TV program last night showing the depredation of feral cats on small wildlife. Does the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission have any plans to institute a bounty system on feral cats in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any plans that the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission has to introduce a bounty system or otherwise in respect of feral cats in the Northern Territory. It may be that the commission of inquiry into feral animals that has been set up and I understand is commencing operations at the present time could recommend such a scheme but, when matters of small detail such as this are sought by honourable members, I would suggest to honourable members on both sides of the House, if they would like to give the minister concerned about 24 hour's notice of the question, we should be able to obtain the information in that time and provide the answer on the spot. As it is, I will have to seek this information and I doubt that I will be able to provide it at this sittings.

889 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What progress has been made in the Northern Territory brucellosis eradication program? Is he satisfied with progress so far and, if not, what does he intend to do about it?

ANSWER

I believe the program is progressing fairly well. I understand that with the down-turn in the pastoral industry there has been some added complication; the stations are finding it difficult to muster because of costs and lack of markets, and there has probably been some impediment there. But on the whole I understand that most of the stations are co-operating as positively as they can and it is hoped that the program will come to its culmination in 1984.

890 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has the contractor been decided upon to build Housing Commission homes at Gove; when will building commence and how many houses will be built?

ANSWER

The company with the contract to construct houses at Gove for the Housing Commission is John Holland Construction Pty Ltd. They propose to commence construction in about a week's time from now and they will be building 29 houses, 20 of them for the Housing Commission and 9 for the Northern Territory Public Service.

891 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has work on the proposed performing arts centre been commenced in view of the undertaking of the honourable Chief Minister last December to do so immediately?

ANSWER

For a start, the question is misleading in that the honourable Chief Minister did not say that the government would commence work on that immediately. The Chief Minister advised that it was one of the planning initiatives of the government. There is quite a distinct difference.

I am somewhat amazed at the tone of the question - as I was amazed, incidentally, at the tone of an article in the NT News by a so-called community arts adviser at Brown's Mart. It is interesting that the people who are first to say that we should get the trowel out and start digging trenches and putting the footings of buildings in are the first to criticise their location and design when in fact we do so. The facts of the matter are that performing arts centres are very, very expensive projects. They are projects that must be looked at in the total light of community need, location, economics and usefulness. It is useless building white elephants and we are not in that business at all.

The Cabinet is currently looking at a series of options in relation to the location of a performing arts centre in Darwin and indeed will be looking to a similar arrangement in Alice Springs. At least we have a location in Alice Springs at Araluen. But I can assure the House that no commencement will be made on this project until such time as all the parameters have been properly examined so that we build a facility which is of use to the people of Darwin and the people of the Northern Territory. Of course, we will do it within the shortest possible time which is available to us but we will do it in a responsible and planned manner.

892 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Does the minister have any details of the number of people that have been challenged and have paid on-the-spot litter fines since the legislation was introduced?

ANSWER

I believe the honourable member for Nightcliff has attempted to answer it for me. I suppose the answer she gave was one answer and, of course, she is correct when you talk in terms of who has actually paid a fine. Through the city council's inspectors there has only been one fine paid to date. Nine tickets have been issued, for dropping litter I suppose, and I understand there are ten people who are eligible as inspectors under the bylaws.

While that might sound a very poor performance, Mr Speaker, I would ask the honourable members to recall the last time they actually saw someone dropping litter. It is funny, isn't it? We see the whole city littered - not only the city but the Northern Territory - but of course, the problem is to catch the villain in the act. I wonder if we should not be looking at alternatives on the question of litter, rather than an on-the-spot fine. There was a proposal in New Zealand which I have heard of which attracts me somewhat - a proposal whereby if you are seen by a mobile inspector dropping litter from a vehicle on a road, he will follow you for at least 20 kilometres before he apprehends you, pulls you up and says, "Well, if you like to go back and pick it up, you won't be fined", but if you do not you will be prosecuted through the courts. I think it has a lot of merit. But the answer to the question, Mr Speaker, is that there have been nine tickets issued and one person has actually paid a fine.

893 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware that demands for bond or key money and the acceptance of such money by landlords in the private sector is illegal? If he is so aware, what steps will he take to discontinue the demand for \$35 on the part of the Housing Commission? That sum of money is being commonly referred to as "key money" by certain staff of the Housing Commission.

ANSWER

As I understand it, the Housing Commission being a government authority is not bound by the provisions of the Landlord and Tenant Ordinance which is the legislation that forbids the raising of bond money. If she has reports that persons in the private sector are seeking bond money, she should direct that matter to the relevant cabinet member. The Housing Commission is exempt from the ordinance.

894 Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise when an all-weather sealed access road from the Alice Springs powerhouse to the eastern side of the new Todd River bridge will be provided?

ANSWER

I ask that the question be placed on notice.

895 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

My question concerns a matter I raised in the House yesterday during the adjournment debate. Will the minister consider placing restrictions on the number of four-wheel-drive vehicles that can be given permits at any one time to go into areas of the national park?

ANSWER

Firstly, the Kakadu National Park has been declared by the Commonwealth and, strictly speaking, the matter of administration of Kakadu National Park is now a Commonwealth responsibility. I understand the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission is continuing to carry out administration on an ad hoc basis. This morning, I sent off to the Director of Parks and Wildlife in Alice Springs a resume of the comments of the honourable member for Arnhem from the adjournment debate yesterday afternoon. I have asked him to give the matter his consideration and advise me whether he considers action should be taken. I will notify the honourable member for Arnhem as soon as I have something back from the director.

896 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware that certain staff at the Housing Commission are informing members of the public that the Housing Commission is not a welfare housing authority? If he is so aware, can he explain to the House why the Housing Commission has received federal funding in the past for housing low-income families and can he further inform the House which unit of his department is responsible for housing low-income families?

ANSWER

I think the question is a little bit ridiculous inasmuch as a minister can hardly be expected to know the attitudes of all the staff and the conversations they enter into from time to time behind the counter of a department. The Housing Commission is an authority part of whose functions is to provide welfare housing. That is laid down in an ordinance and I cannot see where there should be any confusion on that matter. If she has a particular complaint, I suggest she puts it in writing to either myself or the chairman of the Housing Commission. That is obviously the logical action.

897 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has an approach been made to the appropriate authorities to have the old railway carriages and equipment, which line the Stuart Highway from Parap Road to Salonika Crossing, removed? It is a disgrace.

ANSWER

I am not aware of any particular action that has been taken to approach the Australian National Railways with a view to further cleaning up this area. I think the question would be better directed to the Chief Minister.

Mr SPEAKER: Does the honourable member for Port Darwin wish to redirect the question.

Mr HARRIS: Yes, Mr Speaker.

Mr EVERINGHAM: Well, Mr Speaker, taking up this question just as a matter of aesthetic interest, the director-general of my department is a person whose sensitivities are often offended by unseemly sights, such as all that old rolling stock out at Salonika that has been taken off its wheels and placed sideways, with "Merry Christmas" painted on it. He has suggested to me that I communicate with the Minister for Transport about this. We believe it is a rather disgraceful situation and have written to the Minister for Transport requesting him to remove the rolling stock from that position without delay.

898 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

My question concerns the extensive use of McMinns Lagoon by power boats. In view of the very detrimental effect this has had on the flora and fauna, particularly the water birds of that area, will the honourable Chief Minister consider declaring that area as a reserve?

ANSWER

As I understand it, McMinns Lagoon is privately owned although I certainly would not like to assure the House that that is the case. I believe it would be difficult in those circumstances for a reserve of any type to be placed over it. However, I will take up the matter. It would seem to me though, that there are considerable areas of reserves not too far distant from Darwin and that some consideration has to be given to areas for the recreation of the people who live in this area, especially during the wet season when it is obviously better to use McMinns Lagoon for water skiing and the like than to endanger their lives water skiing in the sea. But I will certainly take the matter up.

899 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

Has he received any approach from the Darwin city council regarding a rebate of water rates for people who undertake to grass and water their nature strips and the trees they have placed on them?

ANSWER

Not specifically, Mr Speaker. However, the city council has approached me with a view to a formal meeting to discuss a whole range of matters relating to water charges and their effect on the city council, sporting organisations and public parks and reserves generally throughout Darwin. We have not set a date for this meeting. The corporation hoped to meet during this week which was inconvenient for myself and we have yet to set another date on it. I am sure the council will be bringing up the

matter that the honourable member for Nightcliff has raised.

900 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Has he or any officer of his department considered the use of retycling water from the sewerage treatment plants, either in the Fannie Bay area or the sewerage ponds which are operating, with a view to using this water for grass?

ANSWER

Yes, this matter has been examined and is under examination at the present time. It is not a real priority against a lot of the other work that has to be done. However, the first one that will probably be brought forward and presented to the public is a proposition to do something with the Alice Springs sewerage ponds water. I think the Darwin one is a fair way away, as far as priority is concerned.

901 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is any consideration being given to improving the water pressure in the Darwin area, which at times is very, very low indeed?

ANSWER

This matter does strike fairly close to home because half of Ludmilla has got pretty poor water pressure and I am very well aware of the problem. I understand that steps are being taken to improve the supply, although not being technically minded I would not be able to explain those particular steps. However, if the honourable member would like to place the question on notice, I will get some details back to her.

902 Mr VALE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Can he advise if an official opening will take place at the Ti-Tree School north of Alice Springs and, if so, when that official opening may occur?

ANSWER

I am unable to give any precise details in answer to the honourable member's question. I would certainly imagine that there would be some form of official opening at the Ti-Tree school in whatever use-form it finally resolves itself into, which most logically would be a training centre for Aboriginal teachers. I would certainly think that one would want to see some sort of an opening for a \$2.5m Taj Mahal like that. As for the time, I could not really comment. I will, however, seek the information.

903 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware of an extremely bad stretch of road at the 14-mile, locally known as the "horror stretch", and the already repaired section just past that which has a sign marked "loose gravel"? The horror stretch also has a sign marked "traffic hazard" and these are both understatements. When does he intend to see that a contract is let for the repair of the badly surfaced existing stretch of road and the other loose gravel section which has no white line down the centre?

ANSWER

I am pretty well aware of that area because of the representations

that have been made to me by the member for Tiwi and also by very interested people who have lost their windscreens etc. I am not aware of all the fine points that the honourable member has mentioned but if we could have a talk about it a bit later in the day, I will try to see if we can improve the position for him.

904 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

The access road to the Alice Springs powerhouse is below standard. When can it be upgraded or sealed?

ANSWER

That is the 64-dollar question. Perhaps if the honourable member would like to place his question on notice, after examination of the moneys available in the pre-budget period, perhaps we will be able to give him a reply at that time.

905 Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

Is the Northern Territory government considering the introduction of noise pollution legislation in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government is considering comprehensive environmental legislation which I consider should include noise pollution control provisions. Actually, I think the cabinet submission is in course of preparation in respect of at least the broad outlines of this legislation so that the principles can be approved and further work done. Honourable members would appreciate that it is certainly not an easy task to prepare legislation which we want to be as comprehensive as possible. However, I hope to give the Assembly more details of what we are proposing to do, perhaps through the medium of the Governor-General's speech when he opens this Assembly on September 8. I think it is a bit premature to give further details at this stage before cabinet considers the first submission.

906 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Flagstaff House on Myilly Point was damaged by the cyclone and is at this stage just locked up. It is a choice piece of land in Darwin and I would like to know from him, is there any indication what this piece of land will be used for in the future?

ANSWER

I my memory serves me correctly, that particular piece of land is zoned on the Darwin Town Plan as "public open space" which I am sure we would all agree would be a suitable use for the land. However, I imagine it is on a defence reserve and we will have to take the matter up with the federal Department of Defence with a view to seeing if it would be prepared to relinquish that land to the Northern Territory. I will have this matter proceeded with if it is not already under way.

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