

## PART II

### THE QUESTION PAPER

An index to questions appears at the end of Part II.

Numerical references are to Question Paper page numbers.

An asterisk preceding an entry in the index indicates that an answer has not yet been received.

**23 February 1988**

**24. Helicopter Charters - Minister for Tourism**

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TOURISM

1. What is the total cost of helicopter charters undertaken by the Minister for Tourism in 1987.
2. What was the take-off point and the destination for each journey.
3. Who were the passengers, if any, on each of these trips.

**16 May 1989**

**87. BTEC Payments to Mr Dunbar**

Mr EDE to MINISTER for PRIMARY INDUSTRY and FISHERIES

In the 'Letters to the Editor' section of the Sunday Territorian dated 23 April 1989 you stated that Mr B. Dunbar 'has received more than \$500 000 of BTEC funds to assist him in fulfilling the scope of his agreed program, as well as \$130 000 in low-interest BTEC loans'.

What were the -

- (a) various purposes under which these amounts were provided;
- (b) exact amounts involved;
- (c) works required from Mr Dunbar in respect of each of (a) and (b) above;
- (d) full details of the extent of the works carried out in respect of each of the above by Mr Dunbar as at 23 April 1989; and
- (e) details of outstanding works or moneys on behalf of Mr Dunbar or the Northern Territory government.

**22 August 1989**

**90. Loans Converted to Grants**

Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

Which organisations have, in the past 12 months, had loans from the Northern Territory government changed to grants.

In each case, what was the amount.

20 February 1990

**109. Power and Water Consumption  
Communities in MacDonnell Electorate**

Mr BELL to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. How much -

(a) power; and

(b) water,

was consumed from 1 October 1987 to 30 June 1988 in the following communities -

Areyonga	Atitjere
Docker River	Finke
Hermannsburg	Ikuntji
Imanpa	Ipolera
Iwupataka	Kintore
Maryvale	Mt Liebig
Papunya	Santa Teresa
Wallace Rock Hole	Yulara.

2. Which authorities on these communities were charged.

3. How much did each of these pay.

4. How much, if any, was deducted from other government grants to those organisations in lieu of payment.

**113. Mr L. Williams - Settlement**

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

From which budgetary allocations was an out-of-court settlement paid to Mr Les Williams, Assistant Secretary, Department of Lands and Housing.

**114. Liquor Licence Applications**

Mr EDE to MINISTER for RACING and GAMING

1. For each year from 1985 to 1988 how many applications for new liquor licences have been -

(a) approved; and

(b) rejected,

by the Liquor Commission.

2. For each year from 1985 to 1988 how many applications for renewals of liquor licences have been rejected by the Liquor Commission.

3. For each year from 1985 to 1988, how many applications to have liquor licence conditions changed to provide for takeaway sales have been -
  - (a) approved; and
  - (b) rejected,by the Liquor Commission.
4. For each year 1985 to 1988 how many applications for -
  - (a) new;
  - (b) renewal; and
  - (c) changes,to licence conditions were opposed by commercial or community interests.
5. Of the opposed proposals, how many were ultimately granted.

**115. Publicly-Funded Consultancies**

Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many consultancies were engaged and paid for out of public funds within your portfolio areas for the financial year 1988-89.
2. What was the total cost of those consultancies.
3. How many consultancies have been engaged at public expense within your portfolio areas for the current financial year.
4. What is the total cost so far, and the projected costs at the end of this financial year of those consultancies.

**116. Publicly-Funded Consultancies**

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for PRIMARY INDUSTRY and FISHERIES

1. How many consultancies were engaged and paid for out of public funds within your portfolio areas for the financial year 1988-89.
2. What was the total cost of those consultancies.
3. How many consultancies have been engaged at public expense within your portfolio areas for the current financial year.
4. What is the total cost so far, and the projected costs at the end of this financial year of those consultancies.

**117. Publicly-Funded Consultancies**

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How many consultancies were engaged and paid for out of public funds within your portfolio areas for the financial year 1988-89.
2. What was the total cost of those consultancies.
3. How many consultancies have been engaged at public expense within your portfolio areas for the current financial year.
4. What is the total cost so far, and the projected costs at the end of this financial year of those consultancies.

**118. Publicly-Funded Consultancies**

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TOURISM

1. How many consultancies were engaged and paid for out of public funds within your portfolio areas for the financial year 1988-89.
2. What was the total cost of those consultancies.
3. How many consultancies have been engaged at public expense within your portfolio areas for the current financial year.
4. What is the total cost so far, and the projected costs at the end of this financial year of those consultancies.

**119. Publicly-Funded Consultancies**

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. How many consultancies were engaged and paid for out of public funds within your portfolio areas for the financial year 1988-89.
2. What was the total cost of those consultancies.
3. How many consultancies have been engaged at public expense within your portfolio areas for the current financial year.
4. What is the total cost so far, and the projected costs at the end of this financial year of those consultancies.

**120. Publicly-Funded Consultancies**

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LABOUR, ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES and LOCAL GOVERNMENT

1. How many consultancies were engaged and paid for out of public funds within your portfolio areas for the financial year 1988-89.

2. What was the total cost of those consultancies.
3. How many consultancies have been engaged at public expense within your portfolio areas for the current financial year.
4. What is the total cost so far, and the projected costs at the end of this financial year of those consultancies.

**121. Publicly-Funded Consultancies**

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for HEALTH and COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. How many consultancies were engaged and paid for out of public funds within your portfolio areas for the financial year 1988-89.
2. What was the total cost of those consultancies.
3. How many consultancies have been engaged at public expense within your portfolio areas for the current financial year.
4. What is the total cost so far, and the projected costs at the end of this financial year of those consultancies.

**122. Publicly-Funded Consultancies**

Mr SMITH to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

1. How many consultancies were engaged and paid for out of public funds within your portfolio areas for the financial year 1988-89.
2. What was the total cost of those consultancies.
3. How many consultancies have been engaged at public expense within your portfolio areas for the current financial year.
4. What is the total cost so far, and the projected costs at the end of this financial year of those consultancies.

**123. Publicly-Funded Consultancies**

Mr SMITH to DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many consultancies were engaged and paid for out of public funds within your portfolio areas for the financial year 1988-89.
2. What was the total cost of those consultancies.
3. How many consultancies have been engaged at public expense within your portfolio areas for the current financial year.
4. What is the total cost so far, and the projected costs at the end of this financial year of those consultancies.

**124. Perpetual Leasehold Pastoral Leases**

Mr EDE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. What are the names and respective areas of pastoral leases converted to perpetual leasehold since legislation was introduced.
2. Which of the above properties had recommendations by the Director of Conservation under section 48A(1) of the Crown Lands Act recommending the reservation of areas for public interest.
3. Which of these properties had reservations of part of the lands for the public interest advised under section 48(5) of the Crown Lands Act.
4. What was the size of each of the reservations.
5. Since 1983, how many lessees of pastoral properties have had notices served under section 24A(1) of the Crown Lands Act and how many of these notices have resulted in forfeiture under subsection (4) of section 24(a) of that act.

**125. Northern Territory Supreme Court Appeals**

Mr BELL to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Against which verdicts of the Northern Territory Supreme Court did the Crown appeal in -

- (a) 1987;
- (b) 1988; and
- (c) 1989.





ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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7. What was the volume of beer, wine and spirits respectively sold in -
- (a) Darwin;
  - (b) Alice Springs;
  - (c) Katherine;
  - (d) Tennant Creek;
  - (e) the balance of the Northern region; and
  - (f) the balance of the Southern region,
- for each year since the establishment of the Liquor Commission in 1979.
8. What has been the annual amount collected by the Northern Territory government in liquor licence and related licence fees since the establishment of the Liquor Commission in 1979.
9. What was the wholesale value of beer, wine and spirits respectively purchased by licensees in -
- (a) Darwin;
  - (b) Alice Springs;
  - (c) Katherine;
  - (d) Tennant Creek;
  - (e) the balance of the Southern region; and
  - (f) the balance of the Northern region,
- for each year since the establishment of the Liquor Commission in 1979.
10. How many liquor licences have been suspended or cancelled for breaches of licence conditions in -
- (a) Darwin;
  - (b) Alice Springs;
  - (c) Katherine;
  - (d) Tennant Creek;
  - (e) the balance of the Southern region; and
  - (f) the balance of the Northern region,
- for each year since the establishment of the Liquor Commission in 1979 and what were their reasons for the suspension or cancellation.

## ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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11. How many prosecutions of licensees were -
- (a) commenced; and
  - (b) successful,
- for the offences of serving alcohol to minors or to intoxicated persons in each year since the establishment of the Liquor Commission in 1979.
12. What was the per capita consumption by Territory residents of beer, wine and spirits respectively in -
- (a) Darwin;
  - (b) Alice Springs;
  - (c) Katherine;
  - (d) Tennant Creek;
  - (e) the balance of the Southern region; and
  - (f) the balance of the Northern region,
- for each year since the establishment of the Liquor Commission in 1979.

### ANSWER

Much of the information sought is not available in table form. Extensive research and investigation of each individual file would be necessary to extract this information. Where possible available data has been provided, however should the additional information be required it would require setting aside an individual officer within the Commission for up to 10 weeks to provide it.

### Question 1.

1979	Roadside Inns	32
	Clubs	63
	Off Licences	121
	On Licences	<u>69</u>
	TOTAL	<u>285</u>
1980	Roadside Inns	33
	Clubs	62
	Off Licences	112
	On Licences	<u>81</u>
	TOTAL	<u>288</u>

ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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1981	Roadside Inns	33
	Clubs	55
	Off Licences	106
	On Licences	<u>97</u>
	TOTAL	<u>291</u>
1982	Roadside Inns	32
	Clubs	57
	Off Licences	102
	On Licences	<u>103</u>
	TOTAL	<u>294</u>
1983	Hotels	24
	Private Hotels	28
	Taverns	5
	Restaurants	44
	Vessels	3
	Construction Camps	6
	Stores	77
	Liquor Merchants	18
	Other Off Licences	4
	Clubs	69
	Roadside Inns	<u>31</u>
TOTAL	<u>309</u>	
1984 - On Licences		
	Hotels	29
	Taverns	8
	Private Hotels	23
	Restaurants	43
	Theatres	1
	Nightclubs	1
	Winerys	1
	Vessels	2
	Construction Camps	6
1984 - Off Licences		
	Stores	75
	Liquor Merchants	19
	Other Off Licences	3
	Clubs	68
	Roadside Inns	<u>33</u>
	TOTAL	<u>312</u>

ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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1985 - On Licences

Hotels	28
Taverns	12
Private Hotels	22
Restaurants	45
Theatres	1
Nightclubs	1
Winerys	1
Vessels	1
Construction Camps	4
Others	5

1985 - Off Licences

Stores	76
Liquor Merchants	17
Others	2
Clubs	65
Roadside Inns	<u>34</u>

TOTAL 314

1986 - On Licences

Hotels	28
Taverns	9
Private Hotels	29
Restaurants	42
Theatres	1
Nightclubs	1
Winerys	1
Vessels	3
Construction Camps	3
Others	15

1986 - Off Licences

Stores	78
Liquor Merchants	15
Others	3
Clubs	59
Roadside Inns	<u>34</u>

TOTAL 321

1987 - On Licences

Hotels	28
Private Hotels	28
Taverns	12
Private Clubs	1
Restaurants	43
Vessels	3
Construction Camps	5
Others	22

ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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1987 - Off Licences	
Stores	78
Liquor Merchants	14
Others	3
Clubs	62
Roadside Inns Serviced	26
Roadside Inns Unserviced	<u>7</u>
TOTAL	<u>332</u>

1988 - On Licences	
Public Hotels	32
Private Hotels	29
Taverns	16
Private Clubs	1
Restaurants	47
Vessels	4
Construction Camps	6
Others	24

1988 - Off Licences	
Stores	75
Liquor Merchants	11
Others	3
Clubs	62
Roadside Inns Serviced	7
Roadside Inns Unserviced	<u>26</u>
TOTAL	<u>343</u>

Question 2.

Yes.

Question 3.

From 1 January 1989 to date, five (5) applications have been granted and seven (7) applications have been rejected. Extensive research and investigation of each individual file would be necessary to extract and provide information prior to 1989.

Question 4.

From 1 January 1989 to date, no renewals have been rejected. Extensive research and investigation of each individual file would be necessary to extract and provide information prior to 1989.

Question 5.

From 1 January 1989 to date, two (2) applications for change of licence conditions to provide for takeaway sales have been approved and three (3) have been refused. Extensive research and investigation of each individual file would be necessary to extract and provide information prior to 1989.

## ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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### Question 6.

From 1 January 1989 to date, (a) nine (9) applications were opposed by commercial and or community interest; (b) one (1) renewal application was opposed by community interests; and (c) one (1) application for changes to licence conditions was opposed by community interests. Five (5) of these applications were ultimately granted. Extensive research and investigation of each individual file would be necessary to extract and provide information prior to 1989.

### Question 7.

Data is only available for Northern and Southern regions for the periods 1 July 1985 to 30 June 1989. The information has however been broken down into the fourteen (14) licence categories. These licence categories consist of -

- |    |                               |
|----|-------------------------------|
| 01 | Public Hotel                  |
| 02 | Private Hotel                 |
| 03 | Tavern                        |
| 04 | Private Club                  |
| 05 | Restaurant                    |
| 06 | Vessel                        |
| 07 | Construction Camp             |
| 08 | On Licence - Other            |
| 09 | Storekeeper                   |
| 10 | Off Licence - Liquor Merchant |
| 11 | Off Licence - Other           |
| 12 | Roadside Inn                  |
| 13 | Roadside Inn - Serviced       |
| 14 | Club - Non Profit             |

(See tables on following pages).

1.7.85-30.6.86

LICENCE TYPE	L I T R E S						ORDINARY ALCOHOL	LOW ALCOHOL
	WINE Ord	Low Alcohol	SPIRITS	Ord Bulk	BEER Ord Packaged	Low Alcohol	SUBJECT TO FEE \$	SUBJECT TO FEE \$
NORTHERN REGION								
01	919 486	1 156	189 222	883 237	6 121 924	166 681	14 877 706.47	243 379.97
02	24 496	88	5 904	2 917	74 252	2 666	316 510.67	2 847.40
03	182 010		55 104	576 292	1 422 215	51 682	3 920 751.83	66 267.59
04	3 053		2 765	7 209	13 342	1 278	93 143.76	1 824.14
05	117 105	28	11 520	2 451	126 115	8 007	969 402.16	11 182.25
06	2 836		269	1 296	6 461	277	21 018.24	492.00
07	3 274		931	3 483	61 362	954	110 831.51	1 362.75
08	18 915		4 635	8 328	358 282	2 011	736 062.52	2 916.94
09	1 496 346	1 318	181 208	106 700	7 337 461	244 506	15 372 038.36	388 176.43
10	78 570	79	18 109	12 443	1 109 778	105 990	2 147 396.68	147 936.66
11	609		167	66	166 797	612	256 959.39	878.18
12	70 236	48	19 887	21 181	810 065	6 313	1 631 165.50	7 313.45
13	28 903		16 273	23 190	370 492	4 656	759 366.18	6 437.32
14	228 415	255	75 171	658 998	2 990 763	157 582	6 963 305.10	183 816.08

1.7.85-30.6.86	L I T R E S						ORDINARY	LOW
	WINE		SPIRITS	BEER		ALCOHOL	ALCOHOL	
LICENCE TYPE	Ord	Low Alcohol		Ord Bulk	Ord Packaged	Low Alcohol	SUBJECT TO FEE \$	SUBJECT TO FEE \$
SOUTHERN REGION								
01	465 467	72	71 250	224 333	1 738 767	18 891	4 809 106.14	24 433.73
02	27 069	15	5 465	6 054	72 881	1 769	320 914.43	2 502.65
03	29 833	180	10 475	22 230	174 323	2 880	517 309.38	5 441.00
05	20 047	401	3 010	921	27 944	297	187 070.86	855.69
07	173		70		16 596		26 087.63	
08	40 681	267	9 671	37 885	113 677	1 422	532 913.19	2 730.14
09	871 113	1 827	76 644		2 881 888	47 907	6 604 005.33	59 916.26
10	29 151		5 070	7 153	224 298	2 564	520 892.50	3 680.22
12	13 795	216	9 164	17 492	367 880	7 767	780 263.01	9 140.22
13	3 293		3 927	22 869	165 492	22 635	348 595.92	23 424.77
14	58 938		53 226	314 129	906 910	21 063	2 387 427.42	21 103.41
TOTALS	4 733 814	5 950	829 137	2 960 857	27 659 965	880 410	65 210 244.18	1 218 059.25



1.7.86-30.6.87

LICENCE TYPE	L I T R E S						ORDINARY ALCOHOL	LOW ALCOHOL
	WINE Ord	Low Alcohol	SPIRITS	Ord Bulk	BEER Ord Packaged	Low Alcohol	SUBJECT TO FEE \$	SUBJECT TO FEE \$
NORTHERN REGION								
01	1 061 363	630	206 421	810 990	5 963 171	114 752	16 903 204.34	172 670.30
02	25 206		5 271	2 690	77 550	2 394	371 333.87	4 209.32
03	278 508		68 654	704 948	1 911 548	46 614	5 832 548.83	67 349.18
04	3 259		2 958	6 735	15 546	729	107 182.97	1 087.12
05	106 066	5	10 260	2 557	126 241	5 714	1 020 971.29	8 581.52
06	2 360		278		9 986		26 518.49	
07	6 153		4 169	3 945	139 462	954	313 595.33	1 516.51
08	19 110		5 801	417	478 014	9 942	1 059 254.09	7 592.41
09	2 479 453	2 815	246 988	54 915	6 492 619	201 276	16 197 455.37	318 258.90
10	77 397		52 884	15 819	913 792	51 680	1 970 973.14	78 992.41
11	378		63		144 837	1 098	242 809.26	1 741.40
12	93 538		22 774	13 925	1 002 823	12 358	2 367 442.35	16 825.06
13	36 734		8 949	19 912	434 594	4 941	894 561.18	7 931.98
14	274 263	126	73 547	386 671	2 988 446	119 120	7 303 683.77	169 551.52

1.7.86-30.6.87 LICENCE TYPE	L I T R E S						ORDINARY ALCOHOL	LOW ALCOHOL
	WINE Ord	Low Alcohol	SPIRITS	Ord Bulk	BEER Ord Packaged	Low Alcohol	SUBJECT TO FEE \$	SUBJECT TO FEE \$
SOUTHERN REGION								
01	439 446	216	63 212	149 722	1 576 475	17 711	4 602 232.43	28 177.21
02	29 884	107	7 155	10 214	101 959	1 719	458 684.48	2 803.75
03	46 323		15 203	57 388	251 560	7 290	859 514.76	11 735.35
05	23 329	53	4 369	1 619	29 233	855	233 605.38	1 602.26
07	1 338		144		18 558	1 710	36 297.27	2 195.50
08	42 576	27	10 278	85 171	102 069	1 935	650 451.31	2 541.73
09	1 016 881	1 120	100 233	159 716	2 803 523	28 049	7 817 076.63	44 025.38
10	17 058		4 613	8 100	219 855	495	445 264.13	873.16
12	14 876	22	8 613	15 651	374 659	1 944	818 301.50	2 945.59
13	4 011		4 383	26 648	159 831	14 958	357 635.64	23 051.51
14	67 536	180	36 549	264 634	983 914	22 143	2 763 442.65	29 641.96
TOTALS	6 167 044	5 307	963 769	2 802 387	27 320 265	670 381	73 654 040.46	1 005 901.03

1.7.87-30.6.88

LICENCE TYPE	L I T R E S						ORDINARY	LOW
	WINE		SPIRITS	BEER		ALCOHOL	ALCOHOL	
	Ord	Low Alcohol		Ord Bulk	Ord Packaged	Low Alcohol	SUBJECT TO FEE \$	SUBJECT TO FEE \$
NORTHERN REGION								
01	1 007 678	2 369	201 108	708 432	5 805 521	65 633	17 005 979.55	111 602.42
02	25 234		5 380	3 154	84 042	789	400 844.18	1 492.64
03	324 566		266 095	668 411	2 047 811	26 580	6 590 828.80	44 201.82
04	1 816		1 809	6 439	3 950		63 307.28	
05	103 162	168	9 658	1 984	131 734	3 444	1 119 869.38	6 315.30
06	2 787		214		14 634	9	42 877.69	15.39
07	3 383		3 568	4 685	108 393	459	239 723.06	766.70
08	23 059		6 602	46 004	425 916	3 690	1 003 274.48	5 866.61
09	1 559 465	1 471	190 789	168 368	6 362 237	141 721	17 390 776.53	243 196.50
10	77 547		14 693	732	797 136	15 714	1 824 444.30	25 228.70
11	942		39	48	132 359	1 341	239 871.53	2 265.88
12	84 081		23 743	30 312	1 150 187	7 471	2 668 083.96	12 315.34
13	29 700	129	11 903	10 503	420 695	4 653	1 034 671.44	7 946.53
14	261 733	102	66 424	330 156	3 031 684	93 237	7 707 813.72	147 871.42

1.7.87-30.6.88	L I T R E S						ORDINARY	LOW
	WINE		SPIRITS	BEER		ALCOHOL	ALCOHOL	
LICENCE TYPE	Ord	Low Alcohol		Ord Bulk	Ord Packaged	Low Alcohol	SUBJECT TO FEE \$	SUBJECT TO FEE \$
SOUTHERN REGION								
01	426 054	4 874	54 129	191 676	1 563 877	9 431	4 883 943.74	16 589.32
02	44 627	3	12 101	16 021	120 175	3 312	640 344.63	5 532.51
03	49 431	196	19 280	91 722	369 292	4 536	1 284 827.72	7 521.10
05	29 891	150	2 774	4 946	33 614	882	256 320.57	1 793.58
07	1 700		153		20 074	459	45 232.43	778.07
08	50 523	51	10 672	92 651	128 722	4 761	841 152.69	7 337.56
09	1 024 359	1 105	86 391	732	2 882 032	24 588	8 203 998.86	44 254.51
10	33 406		7 122	10 331	295 560	3 888	677 014.58	3 166.41
12	33 049		10 212	7 974	409 903	1 572	986 054.88	1 536.59
13	4 016		5 217	12 884	180 994	6 768	400 591.56	11 442.88
14	76 951	173	31 017	228 588	815 933	16 920	2 576 612.57	26 880.68
TOTALS	5 279 160	10 791	1 041 093	2 636 753	27 336 475	441 858	78 128 460.13	735 918.46

1.7.88-30.6.89

LICENCE TYPE	L I T R E S						ORDINARY	LOW	
	WINE		SPIRITS	BEER		ALCOHOL	ALCOHOL		
	Ord	Low Alcohol		Ord Bulk	Ord Packaged	Low Alcohol	SUBJECT TO FEE \$	SUBJECT TO FEE \$	
NORTHERN REGION									
01	897 414	4 659	223 131	719 151	5 754 249	76 070	17 514 376.44	60 801.09	
02	18 542		5 177	1 423	72 751	855	364 905.64	1 253.93	
03	253 399		80 614	593 725	2 238 260	16 047	6 822 271.96	23 310.59	
04	1 367		1 198	5 620	6 315		56 773.76		
05	97 602		9 312	1 918	141 612	2 293	1 205 425.78	3 365.10	
06	6 658		1 045	765	7 091		27 663.17		
07	1 675		1 297	2 923	56 720	4 006	115 551.16	6 283.73	
08	18 573		5 842	7 379	466 342	3 420	1 044 160.26	5 311.86	
09	1 280 029	1 225	190 487	484 660	5 913 557	114 303	17 283 972.97	175 443.76	
10	67 589		50 277	46 104	813 007	12 445	1 872 383.61	16 891.69	
11	462		58		114 666		203 934.84		
12	68 796	34	22 049	70 434	934 584	4 853	2 281 613.88	8 369.58	
13	38 528		16 657	18 444	464 412	2 843	1 181 326.10	4 394.62	
14	245 737	109	68 847	353 160	2 907 819	66 106	7 357 131.51	93 197.03	

1.7.88-30.6.89	L I T R E S						ORDINARY	LOW
	WINE		SPIRITS	BEER		ALCOHOL	ALCOHOL	
LICENCE TYPE	Ord	Low Alcohol		Ord Bulk	Ord Packaged	Low Alcohol	SUBJECT TO FEE \$	SUBJECT TO FEE \$
SOUTHERN REGION								
01	441 815	89	62 999	165 033	1 687 540	18 969	5 278 299.71	29 264.76
02	34 958		6 286	7 635	85 699	2 302	452 212.24	1 737.04
03	47 452		19 708	85 860	441 211	3 735	1 352 430.85	5 526.72
05	42 844	11	5 606	6 832	100 073	743	406 360.09	1 055.06
07	2 075		420	158	30 404	459	69 878.01	692.13
08	42 311		12 907	101 121	130 714	2 115	896 673.47	4 898.17
09	913 802	136	72 938	213 224	2 374 711	16 655	7 454 991.42	25 168.08
10	47 576		3 712	810	292 180	1 384	498 812.12	1 606.69
12	54 881		8 428	40 917	331 529	271	954 399.04	725.26
13	2 684		3 600	316	173 720	5 481	359 724.84	8 082.23
14	70 207	28	44 334	220 548	854 477	6 132	2 620 277.89	8 597.62
TOTALS	4 696 976	6 291	916 929	3 148 160	26 393 643	361 486	77 675 550.76	485 976.74

ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Question 8.

31 July 1979	\$ 1 459 965
31 July 1980	\$ 1 114 530
31 July 1981	\$ 1 976 163
31 July 1982	\$ 2 260 254
31 July 1983	\$ 2 907 430
31 July 1984	\$ 3 485 665
31 July 1985	\$ 4 035 724
31 July 1986	\$ 7 543 253
31 July 1987	\$ 8 524 572
31 July 1988	\$ 9 275 424
TOTAL	\$42 582 980

Question 9.

The information has been incorporated within the statistical tables provided in reply to Question 7.

Question 10.

During 1987 - One (1) only in Darwin.  
 During 1988 - Nil.  
 During 1989 - Nil.

Question 11.

For the period 1984 to 1989 - nil. Prior to 1984 data not recorded by this Commission.

Question 12.

Information is only available for the Territory as a whole.

Litreage totals for:

	<u>Wine</u>		<u>Spirits</u>	<u>Beer</u>	
	<u>Ord</u>	<u>Low</u>		<u>Ord</u>	<u>Low</u>
1.7.85 - 30.6.86	4 733 814	5 950	829 137	30 620 822	880 410
1.7.86 - 30.6.87	6 167 044	5 307	963 769	30 122 652	670 381
1.7.87 - 30.6.88	5 279 160	10 791	1 041 093	29 973 228	441 858
1.7.88 - 30.6.89	4 696 976	6 291	916 929	29 541 803	361 486

Australian Bureau of Statistics advise last census was conducted in 1986 and total population count for the Territory was 154 848. Estimates of population for following years are as follows -

ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

1987 156 700  
 1988 155 800  
 1989 (ABS advised figures not available as yet  
 therefore based on 1988 - 155 800).

Litres per Head of Population

<u>Year Ending</u>	<u>Wine</u>		<u>Spirits</u>	<u>Beer</u>	
	<u>Ord</u>	<u>Low</u>		<u>Ord</u>	<u>Low</u>
1986	30.57	0.04	5.35	197.75	5.69
1987	39.36	0.03	6.15	192.23	4.28
1988	33.88	0.07	6.68	192.38	2.84
1989	30.15	0.04	5.89	189.61	2.32

**97. Emergency Evacuations from Titjikala (Maryvale)  
 and Atitjere (Harts Range)**

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH and COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. How many evacuations from each of these communities were there during the years 1986-87 and 1987-88.
2. What means was employed for these evacuations.
3. In how many of these evacuations were private vehicles from the community used.
4. At what rate were the owners of these vehicles reimbursed.

ANSWER

1. Evacuations from Harts Range  
 During 1986-87 there were 13 evacuations.  
 During 1987-88 there were 37 evacuations.  
 During 1988-89 there have been 27 evacuations.

Evacuations from Maryvale  
 During 1986-87 there were 7 evacuations.  
 During 1987-88 there were 26 evacuations.  
 During 1988-89 there have been 34 evacuations.

2. Emergency Evacuations from Harts Range (Atitjere)

During 1986-87:  
 Road - St John Ambulance 12  
 Air - Helicopter 1  
 Road - Community member's vehicle No records kept -  
 some halfway meets  
 with ambulance.



## ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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During 1987-88:  
Road - St John Ambulance 36  
Air - Royal Flying Doctor Service 1  
Road - Community member's vehicle No records kept -  
some halfway meets  
with ambulance.

During 1988-89:  
Road - St John Ambulance 3  
Air - Royal Flying Doctor Service 24  
Road - Community member's vehicle No records kept -  
some halfway meets  
with ambulance.

### Emergency Evacuations from Maryvale (Titjikala)

During 1986-87:  
Road - St John Ambulance 4  
Air - Royal Flying Doctor Service 3  
Road - Community member's vehicle No records kept -  
some halfway meets  
with ambulance.

During 1987-88:  
Road - St John Ambulance 11  
Air - Royal Flying Doctor Service 15  
Road - Community member's vehicle No records kept -  
some halfway meets  
with ambulance.

During 1988-89:  
Road - St John Ambulance 6  
Air - Royal Flying Doctor Service 28  
Road - Community member's vehicle No records kept -  
some halfway meets  
with ambulance.

The 1988-89 shift to aerial evacuation rather than road evacuations occurred as a result of Transport and Works upgrading the airstrip at Harts Range (Atitjere).

The Maryvale Community upgraded their airstrip, following encouragement from the department, to improve services.

Previously, due to the poor state of the airstrips, it was not possible to use Royal Flying Doctor Service aircraft for evacuations from the areas concerned.

3. Records are not kept concerning the ownership of vehicles used in evacuations. Arrangements are made between the onsite health workers and communities for each evacuation. These are different depending on families concerned and availability of vehicles. Community members concerned submit accounts to the department for reimbursement of vehicle expenses.

Where a request is received from a private individual for reimbursement, the account is processed in the normal manner after authorisation and is entered in the Government

Accounting System Ledger (GAS) under the name of the person to whom reimbursement is made. This means that it is not possible to identify the account by way of the service for which payment is made or by way of residential address of the payee. Further, given the many thousands of accounts paid each year, it is unreasonable to seek to identify such individual transactions by way of manual examination of the Computer Database.

The matter is further complicated by the fact rural health staff report that in the majority of instances individuals who use their private vehicle for partial or complete evacuation purposes fail to lodge a claim for reimbursement.

4. Where claims are lodged, the rate at which the owners of these vehicles are reimbursed is, on average, 41¢ per kilometre. This rate is calculated according to the cubic capacity of the motor. Four rates are available -

25¢ for 750 cc or less  
33¢ for 750-1500 cc  
35¢ for 1500-2000 cc  
41¢ for 2000 cc or more.

#### 10 October 1989

#### 101. Brucellosis and Tuberculosis - Tarlton Downs

Mr EDE to MINISTER for PRIMARY INDUSTRY and FISHERIES

1. On what date this year was a TB reactor found on Tarlton Downs Station.
2. When was the station notified that they had a confirmed case of TB.
3. What was the cause of the delay.
4. When was the station sent documentation to sign authorising the de-stock.
5. What was the cause of the delay.
6. Will the station owners be compensated for losses incurred due to the fall in prices, loss of condition and/or loss of production.

#### ANSWER

1. On 14 May 1989 an aged cow reacted to a tuberculosis test.
2. The station was notified that the lesion was confirmed on 15 August 1989.
3. To understand the period between detecting a reactor and confirmation of tuberculosis some understanding of biological systems is necessary.

## ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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A reactor to a tuberculosis test does not mean tuberculosis but it initiates further actions. These are -

- (a) Post-mortem examination and collection of samples;
- (b) Examination of samples at the laboratory by -
  - i. smear;
  - ii. histology; and
  - iii. bacterial culture.

From the above, histology may give a positive result, but not always. When a definitive diagnosis cannot be made histologically a decision has to wait on the outcome of bacterial culture.

Because Mycobacterium bovic (the cause of tuberculosis) is a slow growing organism, cultures can take up to 6 months before a final result.

In this case the histology was not conclusive necessitating a bacterial culture. This culture took 3 months to give a result which for the organism involved is not unusual.

- 4. The documentation was never sent to the station but was handled by a third party acting for the station under a Power of Attorney. It was executed on 7 September 1989.
- 5. The period between the confirmation of tuberculosis, 15 August 1989, and the signing of the agreement 7 September 1989, was the period of time necessary to allow the following to occur -
  - (a) Determine and have approved the course of action to eradicate tuberculosis from Tarlton Downs;
  - (b) Draw up the legal document;
  - (c) Have the document approved by Tarlton Downs solicitors;
  - (d) Organise the valuation and subsequent marketing of the Tarlton Downs stock;
  - (e) Assemble the valuation panel to conduct the valuation; and
  - (f) Muster and transport the Tarlton Downs stock to Alice Springs.
- 6. During the period 14 May 1989 to 7 September 1989 Tarlton Downs were able to turn off to the meatworks any fat cattle without restrictions.

It is true that fat cattle prices fell during the time period but store prices remained relatively constant. In any case the store cattle were sold on the same market as Tarlton Downs were able to buy back on. In other words if the value of cattle had fallen the cost of replacing those cattle had also fallen.

Under BTEC policy compulsory de-stocking compensation is paid at the rate for equivalent disease free animals. The values for cattle are set by an independent CALM accredited valuer, the owners agent and an independent respected industry representative.

**103. General Practitioners in the NT**

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH and COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. Does the Northern Territory government survey the availability of general medical practitioners in the Northern Territory.
2. If so, how many GPs work in the Northern Territory.
3. How many GPs working in the NT are -
  - (a) in private practice;
  - (b) publicly employed; and
  - (c) employed by community-based medical services.
4. In the case of questions 3(b) and 3(c), what are the employing agencies.
5. Of these GPs, how many live in -
  - (a) Darwin;
  - (b) Katherine;
  - (c) Tennant Creek;
  - (d) Alice Springs;
  - (e) Gove;
  - (f) Jabiru;
  - (g) Alyangula; and
  - (h) elsewhere.
6. In the case of question 5(h), where are they resident and by whom are they employed.

**ANSWER**

1. The Northern Territory government maintains comprehensive records of those medical practitioners who are publicly employed and the Northern Territory Medical Board maintains a register of every medical practitioner who is registered to practice medicine in the Northern Territory.

Some medical practitioners fail to comply with the provisions of the Medical Practitioners Registration Act which

## ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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requires them to notify the Board of their change of address. This means that if a practitioner leaves the Northern Territory and fails to notify of an address change, his/her name could remain on the register until the next 31 March when it would be deleted if the Registrar had not received an application to renew.

In providing an overview of the availability of general practitioners, however, the figures are the best available.

2. As at October 1989, details extracted from the Medical Board's registration records indicate that there were 793 medical practitioners registered to practice in the Northern Territory and of that number, 328 had professional addresses in the Territory.
3. Of the 328 medical practitioners who have professional addresses in the Northern Territory, indications from the records are that -
  - (a) 141 have registered as private practitioners since 1 January 1989;
  - (b) 162 have registered since 1 January 1989, as being publicly employed;
  - (c) 21 have registered since 1 January 1989, as being employed by community based medical services; and
  - (d) 4 have registered since 1 January 1989, as being employed by the Armed Services.
4. Of the 162 medical practitioners in public employment -
  - (a) 85 are at Royal Darwin Hospital;
  - (b) 34 are at Alice Springs Hospital;
  - (c) 21 are in the Darwin Region;
  - (d) 10 are in the Alice Springs and Barkly Regions;
  - (e) 7 are in the Katherine Region; and
  - (f) 5 are in the East Arnhem Region.

Of the 21 medical practitioners whose professional address indicates that they are employed by community based medical services -

- (a) 1 has registered since 1 January 1989, in respect of Anyinginyi Congress, Tennant Creek;
- (b) 4 have registered since 1 January 1989, with a Katherine address;
- (c) 2 have registered since 1 January 1989, with a Tennant Creek address;

## ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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- (d) 29 have registered since 1 January 1989, with an Alice Springs address;
  - (e) 3 have registered since 1 January 1989, with a Gove address;
  - (f) None have registered since 1 January 1989 with a Jabiru address;
  - (g) None have registered since 1 January 1989, with an Alyangula address; and
  - (h) Elsewhere - see Question 4.
6. See response to Question 4.

**21 November 1989**

### **104. Cooperative Housing Development Program**

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Which 'older areas in Darwin and Alice Springs' are being considered for the cooperative housing development announced by the minister in a media release, dated 19 September 1989.
2. Is it envisaged that the government will buy back the property.
3. How will the proposed \$165 000 be spent.

ANSWER

1. The areas proposed for assessment of redevelopment potential in Darwin and Alice Springs under the Cooperative Housing Development Program are 9 lots in Beetson Place, Rapid Creek, and 10 lots in Ballingall Street/Allchurch Street, Alice Springs.
2. The lots concerned are owned by the government and will be subject to design studies for redevelopment potential for public housing, utilising principles enunciated by the Joint Venture for More Affordable Housing. No buy-back arrangements or purchases of other property are envisaged at this stage. As part of the planning process, there will be close consultation with adjoining property owners.
3. The proposed expenditure is on the engagement of consultants and in-house resources for planning, design and documentation for the 3 projects involved in accordance with the table below -

ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

1989-90 Funding			
	Commonwealth Contribution	NT Contribution (cash or kind)	Total 1989-90
1. Medium density Darwin	\$25 000	\$25 000	\$50 000
2. Medium density Alice Springs	\$30 000	\$35 000	\$65 000
3. Forecast methodology	\$25 000	\$25 000	\$50 000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$80 000</b>	<b>\$85 000</b>	<b>\$165 000</b>

**105. Appointment of Assistant Secretary,  
Department of Lands and Housing**

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Was Mr Les Williams appointed as Assistant Secretary, Department of Lands and Housing in June 1988.
2. Was this appointment aborted.
3. Was an out-of-court settlement paid by the government to Mr Williams; if so, was the amount of the out-of-court settlement \$27 500.
4. Can the minister confirm that the out-of-court settlement was \$27 500.

ANSWER

1. Mr Williams accepted an offer of appointment on 14 July 1988.
2. Yes.
3. & The separation of Mr Williams from the NT Public Service was
4. the subject of a confidential agreement between Mr Williams and the Public Service Commissioner and therefore the terms of the agreement cannot be released.

**106. Water Supply at Ulbanyali**

Mr BELL to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What arrangements have been made for a water supply for families living at Ulbanyali in the vicinity of Kings Canyon who now have to cart water for several miles from Lila.

ANSWER

1. The production bore RN13983 failed on 27 August 1989 and a new production bore RN14153 8 m distant was commissioned on 10 September 1989.
2. Production rate is 1.0 litres/second pumping into 146 kilolitre ground level tank. The infrastructure meets the criteria defined in the 'interim Guidelines on Levels of Essential Services to Aboriginal Communities'.
3. Water quality meets National Health and Medical Research Council guidelines.
4. There is no need for water to be carted from Lila for domestic and health use.
5. No advice has been provided to the PAWA since 10 September 1989 of any water supply problems.

**107. Water Reticulation Pipes - Alice Springs**

Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Is it a fact, as reported some months ago, that leaking water reticulation pipes in Alice Springs are causing a costly and wasteful loss of water in the town. If so -
  - (a) what has been done or is planned to be done to detect these leaks;
  - (b) what has or is planned to be done to fix these leaks; and
  - (c) if the answer to (a) is nothing, would the government consider seeking advice from ANSTO (Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation) on how the leaks might be detected.

ANSWER

Leakage from water reticulation pipes in Alice Springs is occurring and is a priority issue being addressed by the authority.

Tests carried out indicate the leakage rate is approximately 15% of annual demand.

This is significant but typical of results of water leakage studies carried out elsewhere in Australia.

An economic analysis has indicated it is cost beneficial to undertake a detailed leakage detection and control program. Specialist equipment is currently on order and works are scheduled to commence during the 1990 winter.

The equipment and methods the authority are adopting have been tried and proven elsewhere in Australia, however, we are certainly willing to examine new initiatives and would welcome



contact from the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation, the group named by Mr Collins.

**108. Patients Assistance Travel Scheme**

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH and COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. Which applicants under the Patients Assistance Travel Scheme (PATS) have had their applications refused during -
  - (a) 1987-88; and
  - (b) 1988-89.
2. For what reasons were these applicants refused.

ANSWER

1. Applications refused for assistance under PATS were -
  - (a) from 1 July 1987 to 30 June 1988, 7169 applications for assistance under PATS were received, of which 151 (2%) were not approved; and
  - (b) for the period 1 July 1988 to 30 June 1989, 8275 applications were received and 88 (1%) were not approved.

Over the 2 year period 98.5% of the applications received have been approved for assistance under PATS.

2. The reasons that applicants were not approved during the period 1 July 1987 to 30 June 1989 are as follows -

	1987-88	1988-89
Requested retrospective travel approval (Applicants must have approval prior to travel)	29	14
Visiting NT specialists available at Centre/Region (Applicants must be referred to the nearest appropriate NT specialist)	6	10
Specialist visiting from interstate (An applicant requesting to travel interstate for medical treatment when a specialist of that speciality visits the Northern Territory, will not be given approval)	68	33
Cosmetic surgery (Approval is given only to repair trauma and congenital abnormalities)	0	1
IVF patients ineligible under PATS (Only IVF patients approved into an	8	6

ANSWERS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

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IVF program prior to 29 July 1987 are eligible. These applicants are also excluded after the first successful live birth)

NT specialist available (Applicants must be referred to the nearest appropriate NT specialist)	20	15
On-site Medical Officers able to review treatment (Where possible, follow-up treatment is carried out locally. Applicants may be given assistance to receive treatment from interstate specialists where disruption to continuing treatment would be detrimental to them)	1	2
Costs are recoverable from another source (eg Workers Compensation, third party motor accident insurance)	2	0
Applicants required initial specialist review prior to referral ( Referral to interstate specialists must be recommended by a NT specialist for specific treatment not available in the NT)	7	4
Applicants referred to a General Practitioner/Dentist (Referrals were not to a specialist)	7	3
Applicants residing less than 200 km (Eligibility criteria of PATS is that applicants must reside more than 200 km (radius) from the specialist. Off-shore islands, Bathurst Island and Groote Eylandt are exempt from this requirement)	3	0
Total of applications not approved under PATS	151	88

**20 February 1990**

**110. Prisoners on Home Detention**

Mr BELL to MINISTER for CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Which classes of prisoners are on home detention.

ANSWER

The Northern Territory is the only jurisdiction in Australia where home detention is used as an alternative to imprisonment.

Other jurisdictions use home detention as a means of an early release from prison for those prisoners assessed by departmental officers as suitable.

In the Northern Territory it is the court that sentences an offender to a period of home detention following an assessment by departmental officers.

Of the 110 offenders who have been placed on home detention, 85% were for convictions for driving while disqualified or drink driving.

There have been 3 offenders placed on home detention for dishonesty offences, 3 for assault, 3 for justice procedures and 1 for armed robbery and 1 for incest.

In the latter cases the circumstances were considered exceptional and the offenders were not considered a risk to either the victim or the community in general.

Of the 110 offenders placed on home detention, 8 were female and 12 were of Aboriginal descent.

**111. Use of Asbestos in Construction of Housing  
Commission Dwellings in the  
Northern Territory**

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. What assessment has there been of the use of asbestos in Housing Commission dwellings in the Northern Territory.
2. What action, if any, is proposed to remove asbestos from these dwellings.

ANSWER

1. A preliminary survey carried out in August 1989 indicated that asbestos products, mainly in the form of fibre cement sheeting to wet areas and eaves, do exist in NTHC dwellings.

A further more detailed study of asbestos in NTHC dwellings is proposed for commencement in February 1990.

2. Where asbestos is found in NTHC dwellings and it is considered to be unsafe, it will be treated in accordance with prescribed Worksafe Australia safety guidelines. This will not necessarily mean that the substance will automatically be removed as all the factors associated with the condition and composition of the material will need to be taken into consideration.

Dwellings that contain asbestos cement sheeting products do not pose any risk to health provided that the material is in good condition and is not damaged, cut, sawn, sanded or drilled so as to produce dust.



Trade Development Zone

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIES and DEVELOPMENT

Last Thursday, the minister said he had not taken legal advice on the problems at Hengyang. Is he now aware that the Chinese workers' contracts signed in the Hengyang deal are illegal in Australia? Secondly, is he aware that, if they accept and exercise their rights under Australian awards, they will be in breach of their Chinese contracts? Thirdly, will the minister advise the workers whether they should break their Chinese contracts, and face punishment as set out in those contracts on their return to China, or abide by their Chinese contracts and breach the Australian awards that were agreed to yesterday?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Northern Territory government's position is that any contracts held by Chinese guest workers that were agreed to in China are totally overridden by Australian awards and conditions. The Northern Territory government was not aware of the conditions laid down in these contracts until they were revealed during the past fortnight nor, as I understand it, was any federal government agency. The TDZ is not a signatory to those contracts. We have always said that Australian awards and conditions will be upheld in this country. I will take advice and advise the Leader of the Opposition later during these sittings on the ramifications of the contracts in China for the girls.

Trade Development Zone

Mr SETTER to MINISTER for INDUSTRIES and DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware that Labor Party politicians took part in a meeting with a Chinese national working at the Trade Development Zone just before she absconded from her place of employment and left Darwin for Melbourne, and is he aware of the nature and the outcome of that meeting?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the honourable member for his question. I am indeed aware of such a meeting and I invite close attention to this matter by the Leader of the Opposition. The meeting took place in the office of the Territory member of the House of Representatives, Mr Warren Snowdon, on Friday 2 February. The Chinese national concerned, Miss Huang, a guest worker at the Hengyang factory, left Darwin for Melbourne 2 days later. With Mr Snowdon at that meeting were the following: the Leader of the Opposition; a migrant resettlement officer; a de facto union organiser funded by the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, Ms Trish Crossin; an interpreter from the Migrant Resource Centre; and others at various times, whose names have been made available to me but whom I will not name in these circumstances for reasons which will become apparent.

During the course of this meeting, of which many members of the media are aware and which they describe as 'clandestine', a strategy was generated to cause maximum political damage to the Northern Territory government and the Trade Development Zone. That, however, is not a cause for concern on its own. What is of major concern is that an integral part of this conspiracy involved a deal being made with a Chinese national, who was in

Darwin under a skills transfer scheme, for her to secure permanent Australian residence.

This shabby deal involved the Chinese national adopting a public course of action on a number of allegations about employment and living conditions at the Hengyang factory and the provision of information and documentation along such lines to the Australian Labor Party. In return for this, Mr Snowdon offered his influence, as a member of the federal parliament, to secure permanent Australian residence for Miss Huang. This would involve him making approaches on her behalf to the federal Minister for Immigration, Senator Robert Ray. According to advice that I have sought, such an offer would appear to breach the provisions of the Commonwealth Migration Act 1958 in a very serious manner. Section 46 of that act states that 'a person shall not make a false or misleading statement about the person's ability or power or the ability or power of another person to induce or influence the making of decisions or of a particular decision under this act'. The penalty for conviction for this offence is \$5000 or imprisonment for 2 years or both. I am advised too that section 86 of the Commonwealth Crimes Act may also be relevant to the manner in which such an offence may have been committed.

I am further advised that the Commonwealth Crimes Act 1914 has particular relevance. Section 5 states:

Any person who aids, abets, counsels or procures or by act or omission is in any way directly or indirectly knowingly concerned in or party to the commission of an offence against any law of the Commonwealth, whether passed before or after the commencement of this act, shall be deemed to have committed that offence and shall be punished accordingly.

Mr Speaker, clearly the Leader of the Opposition is also involved in this clandestine affair. Let him deny it at his peril, because I have this morning placed the matter in the hands of the Federal Police. In doing so, I have advised the Federal Police that my office is available to supply them with substantiating detail.

This is a most serious matter. Let us leave aside for the moment the obvious inference of the conspiracy and go straight to the heart of the matter. On the face of it, and I assure the Leader of the Opposition that my information comes from a variety of sources, it appears that 2 Labor Party politicians acted to thwart the laws of this country for their own political ends. No doubt, the Leader of the Opposition will be on his feet many times during these sittings, talking about political accountability. I say to him that he should look to his own circumstances, because the Federal Police will be doing so. They may well want to know in what circumstances Miss Huang left Darwin, with what assurances and with what sort of connivance. They may well be interested in the roles of Mr Snowdon, the Leader of the Opposition and Ms Crossin in organising and facilitating Miss Huang's departure from Darwin, in further meetings that occurred and in their association with Miss Huang's actual departure on Sunday 4 February.

Mr EDE: A point of order, Mr Speaker! We have let the honourable minister go on in some detail, but standing orders are quite clear in this regard. If he wishes to impugn the character of another member of this House, he must do so by way of a substantive motion and, if he wishes to bring on such a substantive motion immediately, I am sure that members on this side of the House will be happy to take it on board and allow it to be debated rather than the minister continuing with this cowardly attack.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order. I find that the Minister for Industries and Development is answering the question. However, I would remind the minister that he has taken more than 4 minutes and I ask that he please finish as soon as he can.

Mr COULTER: Mr Speaker, I am happy to leave the answers to these sorts of questions to the Federal Police.

Mr Speaker, it is my intention to bring on a ministerial statement on this particular issue after question time so that we may have the debate on the Trade Development Zone out in the open once and for all.

#### Trade Development Zone

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIES and DEVELOPMENT

If the minister wants to make that statement outside the House, I will sue his socks off.

Mr Coulter: You are the one who brought that up, and I can serve a summons on you.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr SMITH: Mr Speaker, I say categorically that I have never attended a meeting with Miss Huang Hanying. I have never met her.

Mr Perron: Tell it to the police.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition will be heard in silence.

Mr Bell: That was an interesting interjection, Marshall.

Mr SMITH: Mr Speaker, my question does concern Miss Huang Hanying, the woman whom the Minister for Industries and Development's Trade Development Zone Authority wanted to send back to China to suffer severe punishment. My question is: why did the Trade Development Zone Authority's immigration officer issue a written request for the visa of Miss Huang Hanying to be cancelled after she fled from Hengyang, and is it not a fact that that would have resulted in Huang Hanying's deportation to China where, under the terms of her contract, she would have faced, and I quote, 'severe punishment'?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it is my understanding that the letter written by Mr Rice was at the request of the Department of Immigration in Darwin ...

Mr Smith: That is a lie and you know it.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I ask the Leader of the Opposition to withdraw that interjection.

Mr SMITH: Mr Speaker, I withdraw.

Mr COULTER: Mr Speaker, as I said, it is my understanding that the letter written by Mr Rice was at the request of the Department of Immigration in Darwin. Its purpose was formally to advise the department of the circumstances of the Chinese worker's departure from Hengyang which

placed her in technical breach of her skills transfer scheme arrangements in Darwin. The letter should not be construed as any move by the TDZA to influence immigration authorities in any decision they may make about the woman's continuing stay in Australia, and there was never any intention in that regard. As I said, with regard to the contracts, as far as we are concerned, Australian terms and conditions will apply.

#### Trade Development Zone

Mr EDE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIES and DEVELOPMENT

I ask the honourable minister if he is aware of this document from F.I.R.S.T IR Pty Ltd, dated 16 February 1990, to Mr Ray McHenry, the Chairman of the Trade Development Zone Authority. It says: 'Thank you for your letter of appointment of 15 February 1990. Please find attached my report following the brief investigation you asked me to undertake'. Included in it is the advice from the Sydney public relations consultant on how to shift the blame for the Hengyang disaster on to the ACTU and the Commonwealth. It was commissioned by TDZA Chairman, Ray McHenry, last Thursday, the very same day that the minister was telling the media the buck for the disaster stops with him. I ask the honourable minister why he told the media one thing and then approved advertisements to tell the public something completely different?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, there was a range of questions in that. If the honourable member would like to table that particular document, I would be happy to look at that.

Mr Speaker, as I said, I am happy to debate this matter on the basis of a substantive motion on a ministerial statement. Let us have the matter out in the open. However, if the honourable member thinks that my saying that the buck stops with me was contradictory to the words I used in saying that we made a conscious decision not to duplicate those services provided by Commonwealth and Territory agencies in respect of industrial relations, I would point out that we do not offer visas to Chinese nationals to enter into Australia. There is a department that is set up to do that. It is known as the Department of Immigration, Local Government and Ethnic Affairs. I cannot take responsibility for that. The Northern Territory government does not have a role to play in that particular area.

Mr Ede: The industrial relations ...

Mr COULTER: Industrial relations is a matter solely for the Commonwealth. We all know that. The Commonwealth minister has that role.

#### Pharmacy at Jabiru

Mr FIRMIN to MINISTER for HEALTH and COMMUNITY SERVICES

I understand that the pharmacy at Jabiru closed recently. How will residents of Jabiru have their prescriptions filled now?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, there has been concern in Jabiru, and this was brought to my attention yesterday. Some citizens were expressing concern at a decision taken by the local supermarket to curtail the arrangements in respect of



prescriptions. I have had the matter addressed specifically by the department overnight. I must advise that it is true that there will not be a pharmacist available in Jabiru. However, the doctors there are advising the Community Health Centre on the appropriate range of drugs that should be held at the Community Health Centre for emergency purposes. These are being made available in that centre.

Arrangements for other prescriptions to be filled will be similar to those applying in other areas of the Northern Territory where no pharmacist is available. I will provide specific details to the honourable member when I receive written advice from the department. I have been advised verbally that, where there is no pharmacist, the community phones Darwin to arrange for prescriptions to be filled. These are sent to the community by the quickest available means. We are arranging for the necessary emergency drugs to be held at the Community Health Centre in Jabiru and similar arrangements apply in other larger communities. I understand that the arrangements at Jabiru are consistent with the arrangements that have been made to service the Pine Creek community, which also does not have a pharmacist.

I can assure the people of Jabiru that, within reasonable bounds, we will be ensuring that access to proper medication will be made available in their community. Equally, we must accept the fact that a decision has been made within that community that the size of the town's population and the range of services to be provided makes it uneconomical to maintain a pharmacy service there. I am certain that adequate services will be provided to that community in the meantime. Should any specific problems arise, I will be addressing them directly in order to ensure that reasonable services are provided in the community.

#### Berry Springs Wildlife Park

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

Can the minister detail the plan for the future management of the Berry Springs Wildlife Park with regard to the participation of the Conservation Commission in future planning, budget considerations of salary and wages to be paid to Conservation Commission officers who will continue to work there, and the role of the future manager? If a management committee is to be formed, what will be its composition and, if no management committee is to be formed, how will the park be managed?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the honourable member is about a week ahead of final decisions being taken on this matter. However, I can advise her of the stage we have reached. We have been going through a transition from the construction phase to the operational phase and, certainly, a number of difficulties have been experienced in that process. In terms of on-the-ground management, an interim general manager has been appointed. Dr Ian Eberhard, formerly Assistant Director (South) of the Conservation Commission, took up duties at the park on Monday 12 February. Already, he has started to review and determine the organisational structures. There were problems in the transitional phases and we are now finalising the organisational structure that will apply in the long term. That structure will be determined within the next 10 days and staff are to be advised ...

Mrs Padgham-Purich interjecting.

Mr HATTON: They certainly had not been advised last Friday afternoon, when I was at the wildlife park speaking to the staff and management. At that stage, they certainly had not been advised.

Mrs Padgham-Purich: But you make the decisions, don't you?

Mr HATTON: We are waiting on the recommendations of Dr Eberhard in relation to how he would propose to organise internally in terms of the maintenance and technical staff, zoo-keeping staff, administration staff etc to establish the flows in management. It is appropriate that we should wait for the person who is to manage the park to put forward his recommendations.

Mrs Padgham-Purich: You said that he is the acting manager?

Mr HATTON: Yes. He may well become the permanent manager, but will be the acting general manager until at least the end of June.

In addition, the organisational and legal structure of the wildlife park is being finalised. A submission has been signed and is in the process of being forwarded to Cabinet for endorsement of the proposed legal structures and the relationship between the Conservation Commission and a separate entity which, together with a basis of management, is proposed to manage the park. I hope that the matter will be finalised within the next week, at which time I will ensure that honourable members are advised of the structures. I know that the matter needs to be resolved soon. I know that staff are keen to have organisational structures finalised, together with long-term staff matters. We are putting all of our efforts into finalising such matters as quickly as possible, to enable the park to settle into a proper operational phase.

#### Trade Development Zone

Mr BELL to MINISTER for INDUSTRIES and DEVELOPMENT

Mr Speaker, my questions are prefaced with this comment. The minister is on public record as saying that the Trade Development Zone Authority's problems with imported Chinese workers are confined to Hengyang. My questions are these. Does the minister recall his public assertion that Darwin International Textiles is an outstanding example of the excellence of the zone's monitoring procedures? Will the minister repeat that assertion here in the parliament?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will preface my answer by referring to some public statements that are to be made in the very near future, in particular by Sonia Laverty regarding her comments that DIT is not a very nice company. She has had a change of heart recently. She will be making a public statement retracting the criticism that she made of that company which I described as a 'model company'. I understand others will follow suit very shortly. I will say that from the outset.

Mr Smith: Are you going to answer the question?

Mr COULTER: You don't like that answer, do you? You will have said a few things that you will have to retract. You will join the queue.

Mr Smith: So will you.

Mr COULTER: Mr Speaker, Darwin International Textiles has been operating within the zone for some 3 years. Like all new companies, it has had problems settling in. All new companies have such problems, not only international companies. However, the way in which it has gone about its business has indeed been a model. Criticism has been levied at it. Investigations into DIT are occurring as we speak but, before we condemn anybody, let us await the outcome of those independent inquiries.

#### Trade Development Zone

Mr PALMER to MINISTER for INDUSTRIES and DEVELOPMENT

It was alleged in the media last week that improperly prepared lease documents between Hengyang and the Trade Development Zone Authority prejudiced the outcome of court proceedings between Hengyang and the Australian Broadcasting Commission. Can the minister confirm whether or not the lease arrangements in question were valid?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the honourable member for his question. I am most happy to set the record straight on this matter. The ABC's reporting of an action which it lost was indeed most interesting and less kind persons might even suggest that the outcome was deliberately misrepresented. Such persons might also suggest that the ABC's role in this whole issue has been less than objective, but that is a matter which it is more appropriate for its audience and peers to consider.

The simple facts of the matter are that Hengyang achieved its objectives in the court proceedings and the lease documentation was found to be valid at law. Red herrings about who signed what and when may have made a good story but had no real bearing on the factual outcome. In order, however, to satisfy all honourable members about the circumstances, I shall provide a brief background of events leading up to and during these proceedings.

Injunction proceedings were taken by Hengyang Darwin Pty Ltd against the ABC to prevent its trespassing inside the factory premises. Following those proceedings, on the 7.30 Report that night, the ABC reported that Hengyang was forced to withdraw its application for an injunction to prevent the ABC televising film captured on the premises during the course of its trespass. Because of deficiencies in the documentation between the authority and the company, the report was false. What in fact happened was that proceedings were brought seeking an injunction to prevent the ABC from trespassing inside the premises and an injunction to prevent the ABC from televising film captured during the course of its trespass. However, it became clear as the matter was being argued that, in relation to the second part of the application, the company had a good remedy in damages. In other words, the law pointed in the direction of saying that, if the ABC showed the film in question and it was defamatory, then the company was quite entitled to sue and, in that instance, would most likely be awarded exemplary damages. Because of that, the company made a perfectly proper decision not to persist with that leg of the application which would have been a waste of its time, the court's time and the ABC's time. Rather, it persisted with its application for an injunction for trespass and that was successfully obtained.

It is true that His Honour Mr Justice Rice questioned and queried certain aspects of the documentation but, in the end, he found that a lease did exist between the authority and the company. If he had not done so, the

injunction would not have been granted. I am advised that the judge's criticism of the document centred on the fact that, firstly, the lease annexed to the primary agreement was not executed and, secondly, the document was not stamped. On the principle of Walsh and Lonsdale, I am advised that the parties have a perfectly good, equitable lease between them and that, to the date of the court hearing, neither party had sought to resile from the terms of that lease. In other words, the company was confident that it had a lease agreement on the terms annexed to the primary agreement, and the authority was also confident about that. There was no dispute between the parties as to the efficacy of the documentation. To conclude from that that the document was gravely deficient is arrant nonsense. Therefore, the documentation was in order except for its non-execution. Of course, either party is quite free to rectify that at any time it wishes to do so.

As I have said, the facts speak for themselves. Objective reporting of this matter's factual outcome might have avoided the spread of further misconceptions about the operation of our Trade Development Zone. Sadly, the story which was issued reflects no credit on its authors. I believe that Territorians deserve better from their media.

#### Trade Development Zone

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIES and DEVELOPMENT

Last Thursday, at the now infamous press conference, the honourable minister informed the media that Hengyang had been left in no doubt about its duties under Australian awards. In other words, it had been given the message about Australian awards. Coincidentally, last Thursday happened to be pay day at Hengyang. Were the Chinese workers given full pay packets last Thursday and were those pay packets made up in accordance with the award requirements and the severe instructions given by the honourable minister to the company?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, let me address that part of the question dealing with awards, before moving on to the matter of pay packets. Awards and the role of unions are made very clear to any participant coming into the zone.

Mr Smith: Did they get their proper pay last Thursday?

Mr COULTER: You are backing off the first one. You do not like the answers that I have been giving today, do you?

Mr Speaker, what is expected of participants coming into the Trade Development Zone is made quite clear to them. Information on industrial awards and unions is made available in English, Mandarin and Cantonese. Let there be no doubt about the fact that Mr McHenry has notified the directors of Hengyang of what is expected of them in the Trade Development Zone. He has not been derelict in his duty, as the Leader of the Opposition has suggested at various times. No doubt, the Leader of the Opposition has received a piece of paper about his public comments on that matter.

Mr Smith: I have not.

Mr COULTER: Well, probably that was what the man was trying to deliver to you before you ran in here to hide.

Mr Smith: We want you to get an intelligent man who knows how to serve a writ properly.

Mr COULTER: You are going to get used to it.

Mr Smith: You cannot even get that right.

Mr COULTER: Their experience is increasing daily. At the rate you are going, we will have experts running around the Territory who do nothing else! Mr Speaker, let us get rid of that nonsense for a start.

In terms of pay and the manner in which pay is taken, there is a whole range of options. As far as entitlements are concerned, I would like to read from an address which has been given to the workers concerning their entitlements and is reinforced by my comments in this House today.

Mr SMITH: A point of order, Mr Speaker! I asked a very simple question. I asked whether the Chinese workers at the zone were paid properly last Thursday, the very day on which the honourable minister gave the press an assurance that they would be paid properly. It is a very simple question.

Mr SPEAKER: I ask the Minister for Industries and Development to answer the question as briefly as he possibly can.

Mr COULTER: Mr Speaker, I am unable to answer the question briefly because it is a very serious question. Indeed, my sources have indicated that Chinese workers were able to compare their salaries with those of other workers in the zone last week and were surprised to learn, in the instances that were pointed out to me, that they were the same.

Mr Smith: Why were they surprised?

Mr COULTER: Because you have been telling them that they have been underpaid.

Mr Speaker, let me go on. I cannot be brief in relation to this matter. I have to give the detail that is required, and let us not forget what is at stake here - \$39m-worth of investment. That is what has been put at risk, and I am sure that this Assembly will excuse me for answering the question in great detail.

Today, the solicitor acting for the company met with the workers at the zone. His main purpose was to advise them on their basic legal rights and the protections they are assured of as guest workers in Australia. The matter of salaries needs to be dealt with. The workers wish to be paid in US dollars rather than in what might be called coin of the realm. There have been some complaints about the pay regime and the way it was put together, but let us not underestimate one of the demands of the Chinese nationals. If we are here to look after Chinese nationals, as the Leader of the Opposition has suggested, it would be right to satisfy their needs wherever possible. They have made it quite clear that one of those needs is to be paid in US dollars. The answer to the request is not a simple yes or no. It is a matter of great complexity which is subject to thorough investigation by Coopers and Lybrand as well as the Department of Industrial Relations, which has offered an interim report. It has that in its terms of reference. These are the terms and conditions that were given to the girls:

You are not bound to keep working for the company. Under the relevant industrial award, if you have worked with this company for more than a year, you are quite entitled to leave the company by giving 2 weeks notice. If you have worked for the company for less than 1 year, you are quite entitled to leave the company by giving 1 weeks notice. If you choose to leave, the company would appreciate your giving appropriate notice to avoid disruption but, if you feel that your circumstances are such that you want to leave immediately, you are free to do so. If you choose to remain with the company, you have the following basic rights:

to be paid wages at the Australian award rate for each hour worked by you, including overtime;

your basic working week is 38 hours and any time worked in excess of that is classified as overtime;

to receive all your wages, including overtime, in Australian dollars each week;

any amounts to be deducted from your wages must be authorised by you in writing, including deductions for living expenses, food, accommodation and transport, and also any remittances to China;

if you want to keep having any deductions or remittances made, you will be asked to sign a form approved by the Department of Industrial Relations;

you are not compelled to live in the company's accommodation - you are completely free to live where you choose.

The company does not have a copy of the contracts you have signed with the Chinese government, but I understand from reports in the media that the contract may contain certain restrictions on you. Those are not restrictions imposed by the company, and the company assures you that it does not consider you bound by the terms of the contract and will seek to protect your rights under Australian law if they conflict with the terms of your contract

The company is awaiting the report from the Department of Industrial Relations as to whether you have in fact been underpaid in the past. If that is established, you will be paid immediately. You are entitled to union representation in Australia and, if you have any grievances or complaints, you should take them to your union representative. You are of course welcome to make any complaints direct to me, and I will ensure that your complaint is investigated by the Department of Industrial Relations.

The company is undertaking a review of its industrial relations practices and has sought expert help from industrial relations experts in this respect. You will be handed a copy of this address, translated into Chinese, as soon as possible and, in addition, the company is having prepared a basic guide to your rights as a worker in Australia. That guide will be translated into Chinese and handed to you shortly.

The company wants to succeed in Australia and, to do so, it needs your help. If it has made mistakes in the past, it will rectify them. It now needs your help to ensure that mistakes are not made in the future. The company wants to take account of your views and I would appreciate it if you could endeavour amongst yourselves to appoint at least 2 representatives to meet with the company on a regular weekly basis.

As guest workers, the company has an obligation under the Migration Act to not give you any assurances or promises that, if you leave the company, you will be entitled to Australian residency status. All it can do is assure you that you are free to leave it and work for anyone you choose, whether in the Northern Territory or elsewhere in Australia. Australia is a democracy and you have certain rights and freedoms whilst working as a guest in this country that cannot be taken away from you.

Mr Speaker, reinforcement is given unequivocally there by the company on those issues. As for the pay, we will be hearing more about that. Once again, let us wait until we get the facts instead of shooting from the hip. I am the one who is always accused of shooting from the hip, but let us be patient and wait for the proper investigations. The ACTU agreed to wait yesterday. I ask the Leader of the Opposition to do likewise and to show some patience. Instead of having writ after writ served on him for making outrageous statements, it might save him some money if he is a little more patient and awaits the results of the investigations.

#### Daily Hansard Format

Mr SETTER to MINISTER for LABOUR, ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES and LOCAL GOVERNMENT

I have been informed that there will be a change in the format of the Daily Hansard for the current Legislative Assembly sittings. Can the minister advise why the Government Printer has adopted a format change and what the change will be?

#### ANSWER

Mr Speaker, we come to a more mundane matter. However, it relates to a practical way of protecting the environment in the Northern Territory. Some weeks ago, I decided that we should consider whether we could print the Daily Hansard on both sides of the pages. The Daily Hansard is fairly substantial. I was rather surprised at the savings that could be made by printing it on both sides of the pages. As from tomorrow, it will be printed on both sides of the pages, resulting in a saving of some 54 000 sheets of paper in these sittings alone which would be the equivalent of 16 km of paper if we laid them out in a straight line. It really surprised me how much paper goes into the printing of the restricted Hansard for each sittings of this Assembly.

It is clear to me that there are many opportunities for government departments and others to save paper. I ask members to bear with me and the Assembly during this trial run of printing on both sides of the pages. I do not expect that there will be any noticeable difference, but the expense that will be saved will be very worth while. While members might find it difficult to hold the book open and read from both sides of the pages, it will be worth the effort because we will be saving not only on paper but also on costs for the Government Printing Office and the

Legislative Assembly. I believe that this is a good initiative which other departments and groups ought to be looking at because it is common to see material printed on 1 side of the paper only. The Northern Territory government is taking this step more and more often and I would encourage all others to do likewise.

#### Trade Development Zone

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIES and DEVELOPMENT

Mr Speaker, I hope that, at the end of question time, the minister will table the company's solicitor's advice to the workers. Has the Hengyang solicitor who provided the advice this morning to the Chinese workers, himself or through the company, approached the Chinese employment agency to determine whether the Chinese employment agency is prepared to alter the conditions of contract of the Chinese workers to bring them into line with Australian award conditions?

Mr Perron: Where is the federal government's role in this?

Mr SMITH: Who is running the Trade Development Zone? No one, and that is the problem.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I understand that the contradictions between what would normally be accepted in Australia and the contracts which have been signed between the girls and the employment agency have now been brought to the attention of immigration officials. I understand that that will be the subject of inquiries that they will be making with the employment agency.

Mr Smith: Now that is a bit of buck passing, isn't it?

Mr COULTER: Mr Speaker, it is not just that contract for Trade Development Zone workers. Guest workers come into Australia from China for a whole range of reasons. Indeed, the Chinese government provides labour for a range of countries throughout the world with these contracts but, once again, the terms and conditions of their entry into Australia and their visas and permission for them to enter are given by the Department of Immigration - not the lawyer acting for Hengyang, but the Australian Department of Immigration. It is that department that decides under what conditions these people will enter Australia - and that is where the buck stops.

#### Commonwealth State Housing Agreement

Mr FIRMIN to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I refer to the recent announcement by the federal Minister for Housing that the revised Commonwealth State Housing Agreement had been signed by the Prime Minister. What financial implications for the Territory are in the revised agreement and have the concerns raised last year by the Chief Minister been resolved?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am afraid that the Territory government's difficulties regarding the revised Commonwealth State Housing Agreement are anything but resolved. Unfortunately, it appears that the federal Labor government,



having failed to achieve support from the states and the territories for its plan to rewrite the agreement, is now preparing to resort to blackmail.

As is usual with the federal Labor government, what is being mouthed publicly is considerably different from what is happening behind the scenes. On 15 February, the federal Housing Minister, Hon Peter Staples, issued a media release stating that the Prime Minister had signed the new agreement. The media release contained many and varied platitudes, including a long list of benefits the new agreement would provide to Australia and these included claims that the agreement was 'paving the way for a significant injection of extra funds for public housing over the next decade'. That statement concluded with an appeal from the Prime Minister and Mr Staples for state Premiers to sign the agreement as soon as possible.

The new agreement may well pave the way for extra housing Australia wide, but that certainly is not the case in the Northern Territory, nor is it the case for the smaller states. A fundamental plank of the new agreement is the phased in introduction of funding allocated on a per capita basis and the effect of this is that the major states of Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland stand to gain extra funds at the expense of the smaller states of South Australia and Tasmania, and of the Northern Territory. Western Australia is more or less line ball.

Mr Bell: It is per capita, Daryl.

Mr MANZIE: Mr Speaker, anyone - and this should include the member for MacDonnell - with a basic understanding of government in Australia would realise this is the wrong way about. It is the large states which have the greatest revenue base and are, therefore, less reliant on federal funds. But the opposite is true for the smaller states, and it is certainly true for the Territory.

Mr Bell: Give us the per capita figures, Daryl.

Mr MANZIE: In the Territory, we are hampered ...

Mr Ede: Per capita figures.

Mr MANZIE: Mr Speaker, I am amazed. Interjections by the opposition ...

Mr Ede: Per capita figures - you know what they are. You are well briefed.

Mr MANZIE: I am amazed, Mr Speaker.

Mr Bell: That is what you were whingeing about last year, wasn't it?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I remind honourable members that this question time will be broadcast later in the day.

Mr MANZIE: I am amazed, Mr Speaker, that not only have members of the opposition failed to understand the significance of the signing of this agreement, but that they have the audacity to try to prevent me from providing information to Territorians, and I know why. When I have finished, Territorians will know why members of the opposition do not want this message to get out because it is the most shameful act that has been perpetrated on this Territory since self-government.

Everyone knows that, in the Territory, we are hampered in raising revenue ...

Mr Bell: Give us the facts.

Mr MANZIE: ... because we are not allowed to collect revenue for offshore mining or for ...

Mr Bell: Red herring.

Mr MANZIE: ... uranium mining.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I remind the member for MacDonnell of standing order 51, and ask that he please read it.

Mr MANZIE: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

As honourable members would know, we are hampered. We do not have the same revenue ...

Mr BELL: A point of order, Mr Speaker! In view of your drawing standing order 51 to my attention, I would like to draw to the attention of the honourable minister the standing order that says that answers must be relevant to questions. I fail to understand that the revenue-raising capacity of offshore oil can be relevant to the question of Commonwealth State Housing Agreement funds in the Northern Territory. I request that the Minister for Lands and Housing draw the attention of the people of the Northern Territory to the fact that by ...

Mr SPEAKER: Order! For the benefit of the member for MacDonnell, I will read out standing order 51: 'No member may converse aloud or make any noise or disturbance which, in the opinion of the Speaker, is designed to interrupt or has the effect of interrupting a member speaking'. I find that to have occurred, irrespective of the new point of order that the honourable member has now raised. I ask the honourable member to allow the Minister for Lands and Housing to give his response in the honourable member's silence.

Mr MANZIE: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

As I said, these particular restrictions by the Commonwealth prevent the Territory from raising revenue to a greater extent than occurs even in the smaller states. Not only are we disadvantaged because we are small in population terms, but we are hampered because of unfair restrictions that are applied by the federal Labor government to our revenue-raising efforts. This means that the Northern Territory and Territorians are particularly vulnerable to reductions in levels of funding and, in the case of the revised Commonwealth State Housing Agreement, the potential damage to our economy is massive.

The reductions we suffered this financial year, added to progressively larger cuts over the next 3 financial years, total almost \$100m. Those are the facts, for the benefit of the member for MacDonnell, and he should be aware of them. They have been spoken about in this House 3 or 4 times in the last 6 months, because this matter is so serious. But we do not get any support. We get nothing but denigration. Territorians are being ripped off to the extent of massive amounts of money, and we get derision and laughter from the member for MacDonnell and his ilk. Mr Speaker, I find that absolutely shameful.

We are looking at a reduction of \$100m over the next 4 financial years, in relation to housing alone. When those reductions are complete, our housing funding will be at a level \$45m per year less than it was in 1988-89.

In light of the severe problems caused by cuts in federal funding in recent years, and we are all well aware of those cuts that have been made since 1983, since the federal Labor government - and we are getting a big smile over there. He thinks it is funny that, since 1983, since the federal Labor government has had control of the purse strings in Canberra, we have lost \$1000m. We receive \$1000m less than the Memorandum of Understanding laid out for us to receive in the Territory - not members of this House, but Territorians. And he thinks it is a joke. Well, it is a joke, isn't it, for the people in the community who do not have jobs? And it is a joke for the builders who are struggling, and for people in Aboriginal communities who do not have facilities.

Mr Smith: And you are a joke as well.

Mr MANZIE: If you think it is a joke, you ought to be ashamed of yourselves, all of you. It is a most serious matter. I cannot understand how anyone with even an inkling ...

Members interjecting.

Mr SMITH: A point of order, Mr Speaker! It is very difficult to ask that members of the opposition listen in silence when we are subject to such virulent abuse. Surely, Mr Speaker, if you are going to ask for us to act responsibly, you should also ask the honourable minister to do the same.

Mr SPEAKER: I ask the honourable minister to answer the question, to the point and as quickly as possible.

Mr MANZIE: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

For the benefit of members opposite, I was trying to point out that this is not a matter that is to be taken lightheartedly. It is not a matter to be laughed about. It is a very serious matter. People in our community understand the terrible privations that have been forced on Territorians by Labor policies and by cuts in federal funding which commenced when Senator Walsh said quite clearly that he would depopulate the north. He said he would do it using an economic machine-gun, and he is trying pretty hard. However, Territorians know how to send a message. I am sure that honourable members, at least those with some common sense, can easily visualise the hardship these cuts will cause to the Territory and Territorians. We certainly have not taken this lying down. The Chief Minister and myself have taken the matter up with members of the federal government. In simple terms, we are seeking a guarantee that, if housing funds for the Territory are reduced as a result of the new per capita funding, the shortfall has to be made up using allocations through other sources.

Mr Bell: The per capita funding to the Territory is 8 times the national average, Daryl, and you know it.

Mr MANZIE: That is the sort of drivel that we expect from the member opposite. He wants to talk about our funding.

Mr Bell: Come on, give us the figures!

Mr MANZIE: It does not matter that we produce 7 or 8 times the per capita earnings in imports.

Mr Smith: What a lot of nonsense!

Mr MANZIE: 10% of Australia's total imports come from the Northern Territory.

Mr Ede: Imports?

Mr MANZIE: They are produced by 1% of the population.

Members interjecting.

Mr MANZIE: Exports!

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable Attorney-General has made his point and I believe that he should conclude.

Mr MANZIE: I agree utterly, Mr Speaker. However, I think that, if the member for MacDonnell is going to interject that we receive too much funding, that we are overfunded, it should be brought to his attention that not only are we not overfunded, but we have problems in outlying areas - areas that he represents - because we do not have the funding. That is because the federal government took the money from us, and I certainly believe that the community has to be aware of the attitude that people like the honourable member show towards funding for Territorians.

We have been unable to secure an undertaking from the federal government despite an assurance from the Prime Minister to the Chief Minister at the Premiers Conference last year that the Territory would be taken care of in this regard. I raised the matter with Mr Staples and he referred me to the federal Treasurer. The Chief Minister wrote to the federal Treasurer and, surprise, surprise, he was referred to Mr Staples. The Minister for Transport and Works, acting on my behalf, wrote again to Mr Staples on 20 October pointing out major issues of concern to the Territory which needed to be addressed satisfactorily before the Territory government could sign the agreement. I raised those issues with Mr Staples in person on 24 October. No formal response to those approaches has been received. On 6 February ...

Mr LEO: A point of order, Mr Speaker! You have asked the honourable minister to answer his question directly and to the point. He is still parroting off 4 sheets of scrap paper that he has in his hand. I would suggest that ...

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I find that the honourable minister is answering the question as requested.

Mr MANZIE: Mr Speaker, I share the concerns expressed by the member for Nhulunbuy. The details of the answer to this question are quite complex and they involve matters which refer to unfair acts by the federal government. I think that it is important that the Territory community understands the full repercussions of the cuts and the sort of background behind the work that has been done by the government so that people can see that we have been trying diligently to make representations to the federal government.

The federal minister informed me in his letter that the Housing Act of 1989, to which the revised CSHA is a schedule, received royal assent on

17 January. He went on to say: 'The effect of the 1989 Commonwealth act is to require states to sign the agreement before 31 May 1990 if they are to receive a payment from the Commonwealth in 1990 or 1991'. In other words, sign on the dotted line or you will miss out next financial year. But there is more to the sorry saga than a blatant threat. The federal minister goes on to say that he has approved an advance on 1 February of the funds which would normally flow to the Territory on that date. He is providing an advance, but he adds: 'This arrangement is on the expectation that the Northern Territory will sign an agreement in the above form by 1 March 1990'.

Mr Speaker, this puts the Northern Territory government in a totally untenable position. On the one hand, we are faced with an agreement which would have a potentially devastating effect on the Northern Territory economy, without any guarantee that the loss of those funds will be made up by the federal government. On the other hand, we are being told that, if we do not agree to sign the revised agreement, the federal government will pull the plug on all our housing funding, possibly as early as next week. I view that situation very seriously indeed, and I believe all members of this House and all members of this community should view that as most serious. At the first opportunity, I will be writing to Mr Staples again to seek a commitment that we will not be disadvantaged financially through the new agreement. Honourable members will recall that, last year, I wrote to federal Labor members about this, and I received letters in reply. I received a letter from Senator Collins to the effect that he had been assured that the Territory 'will not be disadvantaged in any way in terms of its housing needs by any proposal from the Commonwealth government'. He added: 'I can assure you we will continue to actively monitor the situation to ensure this does not occur'. He has been doing a lot of monitoring from a long distance diary. We have just been told: 'Either get your leg chopped off or we will chop your head off'. What about the member for the Northern Territory? What was his contribution? 'Keep me informed. I am sure everything will be all right'.

We will not let this matter rest there. Threats of this type are unbelievable in today's society but they typify the federal Labor government's attitude to the Northern Territory and to people in all remote areas of Australia. The federal government does not want to know about us. While it pumps money into the rest of this country, it does so at the expense of Territorians.

Trade Development Zone

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIES and DEVELOPMENT

I refer to the investigation carried out at Hengyang by his press secretary. The press secretary reported evidence of extreme coercion being applied to Chinese women workers. Is the minister aware that extreme coercion is a criminal act? If he is not, I refer him to section 200 of the Criminal Code for a start. Secondly, has the evidence gathered by his press secretary been laid before the Northern Territory Police Force for investigation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it has been difficult to prove or disprove allegations about harassment or the use of standover tactics. The words which the Leader of the Opposition has chosen to use here for his own purposes today, I have never used about Hengyang management. However, investigations have established that staff relations are less than desirable. On the balance of probability, it appears that allegations of intimidation of Chinese workers have some credibility. Hengyang has been directed to cease any such practices and to employ a staff relations officer.

Mr Speaker, as you are aware and as I said in this Assembly on Tuesday, these allegations are being investigated by the Department of Industrial Relations and we will await the outcome of those investigations.

Trade Development Zone

Mr PALMER to MINISTER for INDUSTRIES and DEVELOPMENT

Have the protestations from the Leader of the Opposition and the honourable federal member convinced the minister that neither of the aforementioned knew anything about the flight south of a particular TDZ worker or an employee of Hengyang?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am grateful for the opportunity to continue my observations about the Australian Labor Party's shabby and shameful conduct in relation to Chinese guest workers at the Trade Development Zone. If honourable members opposite are expecting any lightening of the load, then they had better think again. I made it clear publicly yesterday that, because of a simple and honest clerical error, incorrect dates were attached to the general allegations that I levelled against the Leader of the Opposition, the federal member of the House of Representatives, and others. I regret that error, and it is obvious that it was no more than a clerical error, because it is an established fact, which was widely reported at the time, that Miss Huang departed from Darwin for Melbourne on Sunday 28 January and not a week later, on Sunday 4 February.

Having said that, let us refresh our memories on this matter. As an overview, I believe without doubt that a conspiracy has existed to cause maximum political damage to the Territory government and the Trade Development Zone and that part of the conspiracy has involved an offer of influence in gaining permanent Australian residence for Chinese guest workers, including Miss Huang. Sadly for the Leader of the Opposition, many other people believe that conspiracy has existed as well, including members of the media who were fed information on a preferred basis. You see, you

cannot have it both ways, Mr Speaker. You cannot be a primary source of information and then claim to know nothing about it. This matter is now the subject of an investigation by the Federal Police and yesterday my office provided Federal Police officers with certain information. Without in any way pointing to the information, and without suggesting to those officers the way in which their inquiries should be conducted, I make the following points for the benefit of honourable members.

Firstly, considerable attention should be paid to the activities of Ms Trish Crossin, who is the pivotal figure in this exercise, as I said in this House 2 days ago. Ms Crossin, the wife of the Secretary of the Northern Territory Trades and Labor Council, occupies an odd position as a person funded by the taxpayer, through a community-style Commonwealth grant, to look after the resettlement of migrants. Nevertheless, as I explained 2 days ago, she appears regularly in various other forms, including as an organiser for the Miscellaneous Workers Union and as a political confidant of the ALP. Ms Crossin put herself in a close advisory position to Miss Huang before she left Darwin, and I understand there may well be connections between Miss Huang, other Chinese guest workers, certain members of the pro-Fretilin anti-Indonesian Timorese community, and the local Labor left wing.

Members interjecting.

Mr COULTER: It is a great laughing matter, Mr Speaker.

Mr Leo: Reds under the bed, Barry.

Mr Bell: What about the Ayatollah?

Mr COULTER: Thank goodness this is being broadcast and members of the community can hear the mirth of honourable members opposite.

Mr Leo: You are low and pathetic.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr COULTER: Of course, Labor's left wing includes the federal member for the Northern Territory as a leading light.

According to my information, on 26 January and before, Miss Huang and Ms Crossin had crucial discussions about Miss Huang's future and what she might do and say as a result of those discussions. I do not for one moment believe Ms Crossin was acting on her own without consultation with the union movement and the Labor Party. In any event, on 28 January, Miss Huang left Darwin for Melbourne with Ms Crossin's active assistance. The next day, according to my information, Ms Crossin went to a meeting with the federal member, Mr Snowdon, in his office. She found the Leader of the Opposition present.

Mr Smith: What is this? The 29th? It is 29 January now, not the 26th?

Mr COULTER: I understand Chinese guest workers also attended that meeting ...

Mr Smith: It is the 29th now, not the 26th? Is that right?

Mr COULTER: ... as did certain other people.

So we are being semantic here, are we?

Mr Smith: Well, is it the 26th or the 29th?

Mr COULTER: Do you deny that the meeting took place?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition.

Mr SMITH: Mr Speaker, I must ask the honourable minister to clarify his remarks. Otherwise, I will have to accuse him of misleading the House. He made a personal explanation saying that the meeting was on 26 January. He is saying now that it was on 29 January. He has to get it right and tell us when the meeting supposedly took place.

Mr COULTER: Mr Speaker, there were many meetings.

Members interjecting.

Mr Ede: Who was there?

Mr COULTER: The Leader of the Opposition can deny that he was there on 29 January with the federal member if he wants to.

Mr Smith: What a beauty!

Mr COULTER: There was a meeting on 29 January and the Leader of the Opposition was there. I am not saying anything more than that. That will be the subject of investigations.

Mr Speaker, according to my information, on the next day, 29 January, Ms Crossin went to a meeting with the federal member, Mr Snowdon, in his office and she found the Leader of the Opposition present. I understand that Chinese guest workers also attended that meeting, as did certain other people, at least at intervals. I believe that, as a result of that meeting or perhaps series of meetings, the plot to stick it to the Territory government and the Trade Development Zone was finalised. I believe that plot was hatched in the previous week, dependent as it was on the obtaining of documents and on a public course of action being followed by Miss Huang, whose story changed instantly from a romantic entanglement and conflict with her employer to one of payment, award conditions, and extreme violations of civil liberties. Any reasonable person will see that the latter story meshed in perfectly with the tactics and strategy of the Labor Party and the union movement. Any reasonable person will also have noted the care and attention with which the strategy was handled, with elements doled out for public consumption bit by juicy bit.

That is not the end of this sordid story of political manipulation of the Chinese guest workers. If the Leader of the Opposition feels so much like telling his story, let us hear him tell it. Let us hear him tell it without being cute and coy about particular dates and times and without relying on semantics for excuses. Let him tell us about other meetings that he might have had with Chinese guest workers and about what he knew was taking place at meetings and who was there with his knowledge and connivance. Let him tell us about the 3 Chinese guest workers being kept on the backburner, ready to run at the strategic time. Let us hear him tell us about the curious advice certain Chinese guest workers have received about obtaining political refugee status and let us hear him talk about any meetings conducted with Miss Huang's boyfriend, what was said at such



meetings and whether any deals were concluded. Let us hear about all the meetings, all the conversations and all the team talk.

Let him deny the parameters of the conspiracy, because he cannot, nor can the Northern Territory federal member of the House of Representatives because he is in it up to his neck. It may well be that they saw in advance the problems that were likely to occur and that they took particular care not to place their bodies in certain places and positions at certain times. However, I do not have a shred of doubt that they have participated actively in the shaping of this sinister scheme.

Mr Smith: You do not have a shred of evidence, either.

Mr COULTER: Mr Speaker, the Federal Police investigation is now under way. I passed the matter over to them because I had reason to believe it was possible that federal laws had been breached. We have every good reason to believe that a conspiracy has existed. I am happy to abide by the findings of the investigation.

#### Trade Development Zone

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIES and DEVELOPMENT

Has he thought of getting help for this problem that he has - this conspiracy problem? Secondly, I refer the minister to the investigation carried out by his press secretary at Hengyang. Let us get down to some real facts. The press secretary reported ...

Mr Coulter: You have lost your mirth all of a sudden. It is no longer a laughing matter.

Mr Ede: This is not.

Mr Coulter: Don't lose your concentration.

Mr SMITH: I can give you the address of a good psychiatrist.

Mr Speaker, the press secretary reported that individuals at Hengyang were involved in financial skimming practices. Is the minister aware that this is a criminal act under section 210 of the Criminal Code, and has the evidence obtained by his press secretary been laid before the Northern Territory Police Force for investigation?

#### ANSWER

Mr Speaker, as I said on Tuesday, what we need is facts. The investigations into those allegations are continuing. As we said, charges may well be laid, but we need facts. We need information. The key words are 'may well be laid'. Those investigations are continuing.

#### Northern Territory University

Mr SETTER to MINISTER for EDUCATION

A number of complaints have been received about the operation of the Northern Territory University. In particular, I refer to the late availability of the handbook and the slow notification of entry acceptance to students. Is the minister aware of this concern and what action has been taken to improve the situation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the honourable member for his question. I am aware of the concerns that he refers to. A number of students have been disadvantaged as a result of some of the problems that are being experienced with the operation of the university at this time. Those concerns have been relayed to the Vice-Chancellor and he is also concerned about the late presentation of the handbook which is so necessary when students are planning for their studies.

The real answer is to address the question to the university because I have always made it very clear that it is an autonomous institution which manages its own affairs. However, I can understand that some people are saying that Northern Territory's taxpayers' dollars have gone into the university and that they have a right to complain and make representations to the Minister for Education and expect him to take some action on their behalf.

The Northern Territory government will contribute something like \$7m this year to the operation of the university. That does not happen in any of the states. We will continue to fight in relation to this matter. It was interesting, last night, to hear the Labor Party proposing that it would introduce the equivalent of another 10 universities to cater for the demand in Australia whereas we cannot obtain full funding for our university from the federal government. That is a disgrace and I hope that it is an issue that will be taken up.

People have been complaining to my office in the belief that we have responsibility for this particular sector. All I can do is refer them to the university. I have made it very clear that the university is its own body and that I do not intend to interfere in the processes put in place by the University Council and administered by the Vice-Chancellor of the university. The issues which have been raised with my office are serious. Students did not have the opportunity to have a handbook and, whilst the enrolment forms indicated that everything was to be completed by 13 February, handbooks did not even become available until 19 February. There were real problems and concerns which need to be addressed.

In relation to student applications for positions, the slow notification of acceptance of students created a real problem. We need to lift student numbers at the university and every effort should be made to ensure that we retain the good students that we have, otherwise we will end up losing our good students to universities in other states. It is important that such concerns be dealt with. I might add here that complaints were made to my office concerning the way in which general inquiries were handled by the university. All of these matters have been relayed to the Vice-Chancellor by myself, not with a view to interfering but in an attempt to resolve the issues which were of concern not only to me but to him also. He indicated to me that what had occurred, particularly in relation to the handbook, was not acceptable to him. I will be meeting with the Vice-Chancellor following these sittings to touch on a number of the specific issues which have been raised.

Mr Speaker, it is important that we work together to ensure that our university operates in a satisfactory manner. It is there for Territorians and we must ensure that we are able to get the full student numbers which are necessary for us to obtain eventual full funding from the federal government. As I said, it is a pity that the federal government has not

seen fit to contribute to our university in the way it does to the states at this time.

Mr Speaker, if honourable members are interested to hear about student numbers, perhaps someone will put a question to me on that subject. If people are not interested, that is of concern to me, because we are talking about dollars and funding. It is important that we stick to our targets and try to get our student numbers. I am trying to answer the question fully and provide the information. If someone wants to ask me that question, I will answer it at that time, but I am disappointed that the Assembly is not interested in those figures.

#### Official Road Signs

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In view of the new policy of disposition of private road signs on highways under the control of the Department of Transport and Works, will the Department of Transport and Works give careful thought to the spacing and number of official signs so that the increasing official visual pollution may be examined with a view to rationalisation for a sensible decrease in their number?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am well aware of the member for Koolpinyah's views on the appropriate level of road signage.

Mrs Padgham-Purich: There are too many of them.

Mr FINCH: That is a view held by the member for Koolpinyah. In the past, I have asked her for specific examples, and I think there was one such example which was pursued by Transport and Works officers.

Through the new road sign policy, we have ensured that the distribution is in accord with proper road safety measures but, at the same time, we have provided a balance between signs indicating the location of private businesses and those carrying traffic flow directions in relation both to access and to road safety. This issue is not really one of great moment. If the honourable member has a specific difficulty, she need only write to myself or to the department direct. I am sure that each case can be reviewed on its merits.

#### ATSIC and Local Government

Mr POOLE to MINISTER for LABOUR, ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES and LOCAL GOVERNMENT

I understand that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, which is due to start on 5 March, will cause some problems for local government in the Northern Territory. What are those problems?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, that is a very good question. As we know, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission is due to be commenced on 5 March, a fact that is causing concern not only in the Territory, but right around Australia as was expressed by ministers in Hobart last week. There is considerable concern that traditional funding sources that were available to

Aboriginal people may be and, in some cases, are likely to be, cut off as a result of the new ATSIC proposal.

Recently, the Community Government Association wrote to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs seeking advice as to whether all community government councils would be eligible for funding via ATSIC. The answer it received was that, in some cases, they may not be eligible for funding through ATSIC. That is of real concern to me. In the Northern Territory, local government is one of the major sources through which funding flows to Aboriginal people and, if local governments - in this case, community governments - are not in a position automatically to receive through ATSIC funds that they would normally expect to obtain from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs or the Aboriginal Development Commission, then there is real cause for concern.

Only recently, Yami Lester, who is well known to many people from the Centre and right throughout the Territory, was told by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs that its officers did not have full knowledge of what the situation would be with funding once ATSIC was in place. Last week, I asked the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Hon Gerry Hand, whether this was the case, and whether he was sure that ATSIC would be able to provide funding for local government. He waffled around the question. Of course, he had to do that, because he will not control the ATSIC commissioners.

At that meeting, he announced the appointment of commissioners, and I offer my congratulations here to Gus Williams who, I believe, is a very good choice on the part of the minister, although it may be that he perhaps should have not made those appointments at this stage, because he is in a caretaker situation. It is quite likely that, on the election of a Liberal National government, that legislation will be rescinded and those people will be out of a job.

Mr Ede: Ah! Gus will be happy to hear about that.

Mr McCARTHY: It is quite possible that that could happen, Mr Speaker, because it is the case that this federal government is now only a caretaker government. But, let us get back to the point.

The facts are that a community government, the major area through which funds are provided to Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory, may be cut off from ATSIC funds. There is no control through the federal government or the minister to ensure that Aboriginal people receive the funds that they are currently entitled to. That should be of concern to members opposite, because their constituents are likely to suffer from this unless they have guarantees from the current minister.

Community government is a Territory responsibility. Nevertheless, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs has continued to retain section 3 of his act, allowing for councils to be established under federal legislation in opposition to councils established in the Northern Territory. We are seeing it happening now at Elliott and Borroloola. There are efforts to do it at Belyuen and everywhere else that we attempt to set up community government. Those councils will be funded automatically through ATSIC even though they are non-elected councils. They represent only their councils, yet they are eligible for this funding. Community government councils are not automatically eligible. I think that that is disgraceful. Members opposite should be telling their constituents that ATSIC is bad news for them. However, they do not have the guts to do that because they are pandering to the federal government and to the federal minister who has pushed this

through regardless of the feelings of Aboriginal people, not only in the Territory but around the country. It is disgraceful and they stand condemned for it.

Katatjuta Road to the Olgas

Mr BAILEY to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Reluctantly, I draw the minister's attention to his bizarre posturing in relation to the Katatjuta Road, often referred to as the Olgas Road. Is the minister aware of one highly authoritative source which paid glowing tribute to the environmental planning of the road, and is he aware that that tribute included the following statements: 'The range of the negotiations allowed everyone involved to voice an opinion. The route has been determined almost entirely by environmental considerations and all the environmental issues have been sorted out'. Is the minister aware that I am quoting from last October's issue of the in-house publication, *The Journal*, published by his own Department of Transport and Works?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will respond to that question fairly briefly by saying that I am not aware of that source. Here again, we have a feeble attempt by the member for Wanguri, the shadow spokesman for the environment, together with his mate, Warren Snowdon, and the Australian Conservation Foundation, to try to flick pass the buck in relation to the desert oaks. Quite simply, the allegations by Warren Snowdon, which have been supported by the member for Wanguri, that the Department of Transport and Works should carry the responsibility for this entire matter is nonsense. For a start, to suggest that the Department of Transport and Works had access even to a copy of the environmental impact assessment is totally wrong.

Let us go right back to the start. The involvement of the Department of Transport and Works in this project was purely to provide the technical input into the depth of the pavement and the geometry of the alignment based on a route determined exclusively and consciously by ANPWS. On site, it had total authority - as one would expect it to have - for aligning the route to meet the environmental conditions laid down in its EIA. It failed to meet those conditions or even to stick to the route that had been distributed selectively to a handful of interested parties. The Conservation Commission was the only NT government body to receive a copy of the route. The Department of Transport and Works did not. Probably, what the department based its statement on, and certainly what I based my statement in December on, was the ill-placed confidence that the body responsible for management of the park would follow its own environmental assessment conditions.

The fact that 150 mature desert oaks, most of which were at least 50 years old and some of which were 200 years old, have been bulldozed is of no interest to the member for Wanguri. We have not even heard from the local member, the member for MacDonnell. While they were both down there last week, I invited them to have a look. Let them tell the people what they think about those 150 trees being bulldozed. The alignment proposed by the Department of Transport and Works did not involve the removal of a single mature desert oak - not one. We will hear much more on this subject. The hypocrisy of the Labor Party ...

Mr BELL: A point of order, Mr Speaker! I have been ruled out of order for the use of the word 'hypocrisy'. I believe that the Minister for Transport and Works should be required to withdraw the word.

Mr FINCH: Mr Speaker, I was referring to the hypocrisy of the Labor Party. I made no reference at all to a member of this House.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr FINCH: Mr Speaker, the total hypocrisy of the Labor Party was evidenced by that big launch of a billion trees for Greening Australia. Senator Richardson and the Prime Minister's wife expressed this as they planted some gum trees over on the east coast - gum trees that will reach maturity in 5 or 6 years. At the same time, 150 trees under the control of the federal government within the Northern Territory have been bulldozed unnecessarily to save some mulgara rats. It did not save the rats, and that is a separate issue. Ironically, the rats were also found in the area of the new route.

I have seen television coverage of Senator Collins, Warren Snowdon and a host of other environmental pretenders planting gum trees. Meanwhile, they turn their backs on 150 mature desert oaks, some of them more than 200 years old. That is an absolute crime. If any good has come out of this matter, it is twofold. Firstly, the Labor Party's hypocrisy on environmental matters has been shown up and, secondly, the Aboriginal community in the area has gained some firewood. Overall, however, the loss of the trees is an absolute shame. The conditions of the ANPWS contract required that the trees be laid aside for collection by the Aboriginal people. Now, the ANPWS is seeking to issue a contract for \$5000 to the Aboriginal community to take away those 150 trees, many of them more than 100 years old, and to cut them up for firewood. What a shame!

#### United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Mr COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Is it correct, as Senator Tambling told me some time ago, that the federal Attorney-General stated that he would not ratify that convention unless the Attorneys-General of all states and the Territory agreed to sign it too? Further, is the Attorney-General aware that there is widespread difference of opinion concerning the ramifications of that convention, and is he prepared to have the issue debated in this House so that the matter can be given some publicity before the convention is signed?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it is a fact that the Prime Minister advised the Chief Minister in January this year that the federal government intended to sign the convention on the rights of the child in the near future. Signing the convention involves a commitment in principle to act consistently with the basic purposes of the convention. I am pleased to be able to advise members that it does not involve the assumption of specific legal obligations. Subsequent formal ratification is required to complete the process and the Prime Minister's advice was that consultation between the Commonwealth, state and territory governments would be undertaken prior to ratification, and that consultation would also take place in the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General.

I certainly hope that that consultation will occur and that it will occur in a fruitful manner. I hope that it does not take the form of the consultation which was supposed to take place in respect of the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement. Really, that consultation was non-existent. Possibly, the federal Labor government may have learned something from its

mistakes in a number of areas in terms of pseudo-consultation. I think that the federal Minister for Housing is having problems with pharmacists as well, due to his method of consultation.

I am very aware that there is concern in the community regarding the possible adverse effects which ratification of this convention could have on family life. The main cause for concern appears to be that the convention confers rights on children without also conferring obligations and responsibilities. There is concern also that it may be destructive to family life. I am pleased to be able to advise that, to my knowledge, this concern is without foundation. It is true that the convention confers rights on children. However, they are not unfettered rights and they do not disregard parents' rights to influence their children's decisions and lives. For example, article 14.1 confers rights on a child to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. However, that is modified by article 14.2 which provides that rights and duties of parents to provide direction to the child shall be respected by state parties.

I think that the main problem in relation to the signing of this convention is that, in fact, Australia would be abrogating its sovereign right to deal with its own matters itself. Unfortunately, there have been examples of the federal government signing international treaties and subsequently enforcing constraints provided by those international treaties on states, thereby overriding the rights of the states, and parliaments such as this, to settle matters according to the wishes of people in their jurisdictions. I believe that is the major danger of any ratification or signing of an international agreement, especially when the parties to such agreements are, in the main, people who have no consideration at all for the human rights of others. Unfortunately, we frequently see signatories to international agreements flaunting those agreements whilst, in Australia, we are held to courses of action which often the majority of the community does not support. I believe that the matter is one that would be suitable for comment in this House. I certainly look forward to hearing some comment, perhaps in an adjournment debate, and we could possibly consider a full-scale debate on the matter. I would certainly like to hear comment from the member for Sadadeen in an adjournment debate, as to the importance of the matter.

#### Central Australian Honda Masters Games

Mr POOLE to MINISTER for TOURISM

What is the current situation with regard to bookings for the Central Australian Honda Masters Games which, I understand, are to be held in Alice Springs later this year, and what level of interest has been shown by sports people throughout Australia in participating in these games?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the member for Araluen for the question. As honourable members would be aware, in 1988, the Honda Central Australian Masters Games brought 1500 competitors into central Australia and, as a result, the economic benefit to the community from motel accommodation and spending elsewhere was estimated to be around \$1.4m. This year, there will be 27 events. Equestrian events have been introduced and early bookings indicate that there will be some 3000 competitors in central Australia this year, plus family members who accompany those competitors. They will come from all over Australia, and the Northern Territory is very grateful to the major sponsors, particularly Honda. This is the third games to which Honda

has contributed, and we expect that the economic benefits to central Australia during October will be quite significant.

Darwin Palmerston Access Highway

Mr BAILEY to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I draw the minister's attention to his sudden and unexpected interest in roads and their environmental impact. Which public bodies and community groups were asked to comment on the major road development project between Palmerston and the Darwin central business district? I refer to the massive project which will involve realignment of Tiger Brennan Drive and the construction of the Frog Hollow/Darwin Primary School exit route. Which public bodies and community groups responded? What were those responses? Was an EIS ordered or conducted and, if so, what were the results, and why have they not been made public?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the member for Wanguri for his question. It gives me the opportunity to remind the honourable member that his new-found interest in the environment is not something that applies to this House. Not only the majority of my colleagues but I myself have practised conservation of the environment for a long time. In my case, that goes back almost 30 years. As one responsible for the construction of the majority ...

Mr Ede: Big holes.

Mr FINCH: In many instances, it was big holes, for the benefit of the member for Stuart. Whether we were building water mains or roads, in all of my early days in engineering, it was a matter of seeking a balance between the competing forces and taking a responsible attitude. As you would be well aware, Mr Speaker, having been a Minister for Transport and Works yourself, in taking a responsible attitude, the Department of Transport and Works is second to none. The other day, even Bob Ellis, the spokesman for the Green Independents, acknowledged ...

Mr Bailey: Are you going to answer the question?

Mr FINCH: ... that, in the case of the desert oaks, unfortunately Fred Finch was right, and secondly ...

Mr Bailey: Are you going to answer the question?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member for Wanguri took 45 seconds to ask his question and I would ask that he allow the honourable Minister for Transport and Works to answer that question without interruption.

Mr FINCH: Mr Speaker, it was quite clearly acknowledged, and correctly so, that probably the Department of Transport and Works, of all of the road authorities in Australia, has the best track record in ensuring that the environment is impacted on to the absolute minimum in regard to the much-needed road network that has to be developed for the sake of the Northern Territory. That is a track record that the department is proud of, and I will not have any Johnny-come-lately environmentalist trying to denigrate that very good work.

In regard to Tiger Brennan Drive, once again the member for Wanguri got it wrong. It was rather disappointing that, when members of the the media



were given the correct version of the Frog Hollow issue, they failed to run that very story, and allowed the member for Wanguri to get away with his fabricated version and allowed the spokesman for the Australian Conservation Foundation to get away with a nonsense statement.

In regard to Frog Hollow, that was a matter for proper forward planning. It was a planning issue that went before Cabinet some 3 or 5 years ago. The proposal went through all of the advertising processes. In fact, the responsibility for what happens with Frog Hollow lies with the Darwin City Council. It is responsible for the CBD and, correctly, it had an involvement as well. For all of our road projects, we do go through a proper environmental assessment and take the appropriate steps that are recommended for the circumstances.

In regard to Kakadu, for example, we went through a full EIS for the Oenpelli road, despite the comments made by Mr Krockenberger. In regard to Frog Hollow, the road preference has been put forward by the design engineers for determination 5, 10, or maybe 20 years down the track. That is forward planning and it is all good stuff.

Mr Hatton: When the population grows by 40%.

Mr FINCH: When the population of Darwin reaches a certain point, and I think 130 000 is the figure, we will have to address the options available then and, of course, the options will change. Even as we have given an indication to the Uniting Church, further up in that area, that its particular circumstances will not be affected, so we have held the precise options on the so-called Frog Hollow area off until they need to be determined, but at least we have done some forward planning on what the worst-case scenario could be.

Let me say it clearly again for the honourable member and for all of those people who may take an interest in Frog Hollow. Frog Hollow has been set aside as a park. The road preference to which the honourable member was referring does not even go through Frog Hollow anyway, regardless of the fact that it is only 1 of a number of options which will be properly debated by Cabinet, by government and by the city council in a decade or 2 decades time. Once again, the honourable member has got it wrong.

#### Performance of Warren Snowdon as a Federal Member

Mr FIRMIN to CHIEF MINISTER

Is the Chief Minister aware of recent claims by the Labor MHR, Warren Snowdon, that he has done a better job than any of his predecessors in representing the Northern Territory, and will he comment on the accuracy of those claims?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I was surprised and rather amused to learn that the Territory's member of the House of Representatives should make such a claim. I thought it rather denigrated his predecessors and, of course, his predecessors have not all been on the other side of politics either. I guess that ego is one of those things that he does have a lot of, but it seems that it is all that he has. I would not mind so much that he claimed to be the best ever representative of the Northern Territory in parliament if, in fact, Mr Snowdon had achieved anything of significance for the Northern Territory during his term in Canberra, but the fact is that he

seems to have one talent only and that is to be in the right place when there is a television camera around a federal minister. You will always find a little elf on the shoulder, as it were, and ...

Mr Coulter: He single-handedly negotiated the Timor Gap agreement.

Mr Smith: Two airports, one Olgas road.

Mr Coulter: The Timor Gap deal. Oh, leave us alone!

Mr Smith: Tindal stage 3. It is not a bad list for starters.

Mr Coulter: And you believe that, do you?

Mr PERRON: In a moment, I would be pleased to take on the matters raised by the Leader of the Opposition as being projects which we should attribute to the hard work of our MHR, such as airports and the like, but to start with, I think that his record in regard to defending the Territory's funding position is one that we should bear in mind, particularly when we reflect on the federal member's claim that he has been the best ever. In the time that he has been exercising his much-heralded influence in Canberra with his colleagues, the Territory has gone backwards.

Since he was elected, every Territorian has been denied about \$3200 in federal funds, and that is for each man, woman and child in the Territory. You can imagine Mr Speaker, what we could have done in the Territory if we had had that money - about \$500m in 1990 dollars - but we did not get the chance to use it at all. In real terms, our per capita funding has been slashed by 20% since Mr Snowdon started representing Territorians. In the 1986-87 financial year, that is the year before Mr Snowdon was elected, federal payments to the Territory amounted to \$985m. Adjusted for inflation and population to maintain the same level of services to Territorians in 1987-88, which was that was Mr Snowdon's first year as our representative, we would have needed \$1062m. We received \$966m, a shortfall of \$96m in the first year of Mr Snowdon's representation. By the same token, to maintain the pre-Snowdon levels of service in the 2 subsequent financial years, we needed \$1138m and \$1233m respectively. Instead, we received \$989m and \$1004m respectively, shortfalls of \$149m and \$229m. I think it is important for me to use these figures even though, no doubt, when speaking of hundreds of millions of dollars one loses many of the listeners. However, it will be on the Hansard record.

As I mentioned, about \$500m in today's dollars have been denied to the Territory since Mr Snowdon has taken up representation for us. We cannot afford another 3 years of this sort of representation. As for the airports, the army barracks, and in so many other areas where he may try to take credit, they have had nothing to do with Mr Snowdon. As a matter of fact, members opposite may care to forget that it was the Fraser government that initiated the Tindal project. If members opposite care to check the record, they will find that that is absolutely true. To claim kudos for Darwin's redeveloped airport and for the upgrading of the airport at Alice Springs, Mr Snowdon would need to have the most enormous hide. We do not have those facilities yet. We thought we were about to get them some 4 years ago, when the Prime Minister himself turned the first sod at the Darwin Airport. If one thought any projects would be sacrosanct, it would be those projects on which the Prime Minister himself turned the first sod. But no, after about \$20m had been spent, it was cancelled.

Members opposite cannot expect Territorians to accept at face value that the Darwin Airport redevelopment project - commenced prior to a federal election and about 1 year later than our federal representative told us it would commence - will ever be completed. I have been in politics a long time and I have watched Mr Hawke closely ever since he has been in office. I will believe that Darwin will have a redeveloped airport when it is completed and not before, because of the track record of the Prime Minister and the last false start.

Mr Ede: The Coalition has decided to sell all domestic and international airports.

Mr Coulter: They will not get a lot for Darwin Airport.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr PERRON: Mr Speaker, I made the comment the other day that Mr Snowdon has done a reasonable job of getting himself a name for having been everywhere and done everything by announcing projects that the federal government would have undertaken in the Northern Territory if the Territory were represented by a monkey in Canberra. It is true, and any reference to the ...

Mr SMITH: A point of order, Mr Speaker! The Chief Minister should withdraw the inference that the member for the Northern Territory is performing at no better level than a monkey would perform.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order. I refer the Leader of the Opposition to standing order 62 which is quite comprehensive. The Chief Minister referred to a monkey being the representative of the Territory in parliament, but did not refer to the incumbent member.

Mr PERRON: Mr Speaker, I am sure that, during the course of the current federal election campaign, Territorians will be reminded over and over again of the things that the Northern Territory does not have as a result of Mr Snowdon's representation of our affairs in Canberra over the past period. I reject his boast that he is the best federal member that we have ever had. In fact, I think he is the worst and we simply cannot afford him, financially or otherwise, for another 3 years.

#### Trade Development Zone

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

When did he become aware of the allegations made by the Minister for Industries and Development concerning certain events associated with the operations at the TDZ? Does he now support the Minister for Industries and Development's allegations?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the first part of the question was somewhat nonsensical and is impossible to answer.

Mr Leo: Mr Speaker, I will repeat the question.

Mr PERRON: Try it again.

Mr SPEAKER: The honourable member may repeat his question.

Mr LEO: When was the Chief Minister aware of allegations that the Minister for Industries and Development made against persons in the Northern Territory and persons in this parliament in relation to certain events associated with the TDZ and an operator, and does the Chief Minister support his minister in respect of those allegations?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, let me assure the honourable member opposite that I have been aware of the Minister for Industries and Development's activities and information that he has gathered in the course of the recent heightened interest in matters related to the Trade Development Zone. I am very pleased with the way the minister is handling his portfolio.

Trade Development Zone

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIES and DEVELOPMENT

I preface my question by informing the House that, as of 8 o'clock this morning, the police had still not received from the minister information gathered by his press secretary relating to alleged criminal activity in the Trade Development Zone. Do the financial skimming allegations laid by the minister's press secretary against a company in the Trade Development Zone revolve around that company's failure to account for the \$104 per week the company withheld from each Chinese worker for food and household supplies and, since the Northern Territory Police Force is the only authority empowered to investigate criminal allegations, why does the minister continue to withhold the information from the Northern Territory Police Force?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is well aware that charges of skimming or any other allegations - and a truckload of them have been levelled during the course of the debate on the Trade Development Zone and, in particular the actions of Hengyang - are being investigated by a firm of chartered accountants, Coopers & Lybrand, and by the Department of Industrial Relations. Those investigations are not complete at this time, The Leader of the Opposition will have to be patient and wait until we have the facts. He will then know whether or not there are charges to be answered.

I am not slowing down those investigations. On the floor of this Assembly, during the course of the debate last week, I explained what we are doing to accelerate those investigations and how much help we are providing to those people in the course of their inquiries. They are not being hampered in any way, and we will have to wait until we have the facts. It is facts that have been lacking in this debate in relation to the allegations that have been levelled by the opposition.

Mr Smith: What was your press secretary operating on then? Fantasy, perhaps.

Mr COULTER: I can tell the Leader of the Opposition that my press secretary and the ministerial officer responsible for the Trade Development Zone were among the first to be interviewed by the Federal Police on their findings during the investigations into the charges laid against Hengyang. I understand that that interview with the Federal Police lasted for in excess of 1 hour. We are cooperating fully to get to the bottom of the allegations that have been levelled.

AIDS Policy of Department of Education

Mr SETTER to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Some time ago, school staff and school councils were asked for ...

Mr Coulter interjecting.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Minister for Industries and Development will allow the member for Jingili to ask his question of the Minister for Education without interjecting so that the Minister for Education is able to understand the question.

Mr SETTER: Some time ago, school staff and school councils were asked for input to the development of its AIDS policy by the Department of Education. What is the current situation and the current status of the policy?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, as has been mentioned, for some time the Department of Education has been looking at developing a policy on HIV AIDS in the schools. The policy has been developed following a great deal of consultation with a wide range of groups and the Department of Health and Community Services. The groups that have been involved in that process are the school councils, the Council of Government School Organisations and the Northern Territory Teachers Federation. The groups that I have mentioned have been involved in perusing the proposed policy, which was widely circulated throughout the Northern Territory, and the input from those particular groups has been taken on board in the formulation of this policy.

Mr Speaker, I table the policy for the information of members.

The document adopts the recommendations of the AIDS Task Force which was set up to look at this specific issue. It begins by commenting generally on the disease HIV or AIDS. It talks about the general symptoms. It also refers to the provision of information and the various advisory and counselling facilities which are available. It touches on hygiene in schools and first-aid procedures, and provides guidelines for people who have the disease and are employed in or attending schools.

The development of this policy is consistent with the development of AIDS policies throughout Australia. That needs to be made very clear. The document's terminology is consistent with that used elsewhere. I should also mention here that I believe that other departments will be putting forward or developing policies in relation to AIDS in the near future. I refer particularly to an AIDS policy relating to the public service, which the Minister for Labour, Administrative Services and Local Government will present at some stage.

I am sure that honourable members would be aware that the Northern Territory Department of Education has integrated AIDS education into its comprehensive health curriculum. That has been done by adopting the curriculum resource material from Victoria. The material is titled 'Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention Education'. That has been in place for some time. Teachers will be attending in-service programs this year in respect of AIDS education which will be run by the Department of Education, assisted by the Department of Health and Community Services. Those in-service programs will relate to all regions throughout the Northern Territory and will involve primary and secondary school teachers and school nurses.

The final point that needs to be made is that the policy that I have tabled today will be reviewed every 6 months in conjunction with the Department of Health and Community Services. When changes in medical knowledge indicate that policy changes are necessary, the AIDS Task Force will be convened to recommend possible amendments to the policy. The document that I have tabled this morning will be distributed to schools and school councils throughout the Northern Territory.

Mr FINCH: Mr Speaker, under standing order 54, I wish to make a personal explanation. It pertains to a question asked of me on Thursday of

last week by the member for Wanguri. The question related to desert oaks and honourable members ...

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I ask the honourable minister to leave his personal explanation until later. It should have been done earlier and not during question time.

Trade Development Zone

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIES and DEVELOPMENT

In a previous answer, the minister stated that the Federal Police were investigating allegations against Hengyang. Subsequently, I checked that statement with the Federal Police. They deny that they are undertaking an investigation into Hengyang. Could the honourable minister supply this House with the information source on which he is relying?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I apologise for any inconvenience that that may have been caused. Of course, they are investigating the Leader of the Opposition. The point that I was trying to make was that the information that was brought to the attention of my press secretary had been made available in this case.

Mr Smith: You cannot get anything right.

Mr COULTER: We will see who has got everything right, Mr Speaker.

Mr Smith: Yes, we will.

Mr COULTER: We will see in the case of the Leader of the Opposition and the federal member of the House of Representatives. They had a great week last week, Mr Speaker, but I can assure you that the tide is turning and that information is now being provided on a very regular basis.

Members interjecting.

Mr COULTER: They can laugh as much as they like, Mr Speaker. I am not making anything up. I am acting on information which has been provided to me. The Leader of the Opposition can be as coy as he likes. He can play with semantics, and the member for the House of Representatives and Ms Trish Crossin can be as coy as they like and can indulge in semantics as much as they like when they say that they did not attend a particular meeting and were not in a particular place at a particular time. All that will come out in the wash and the Leader of the Opposition will look very silly.

Members interjecting.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr COULTER: Unfortunately, the Leader of the Opposition will not be here when the police report is handed down, because his resignation will be demanded forthwith.

Improvements at Darwin and Alice Springs Turf Clubs

Mr FIRMIN to MINISTER for RACING and GAMING

The Bennett Report was adopted in mid-1989. It identified many areas in which changes for the better could be made and I ask the minister whether he can advise the House of what improvements have been made at both the Darwin and Alice Springs Turf Clubs since the report was adopted.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, since being given responsibility for this portfolio, I have taken the opportunity to visit both the Alice Springs Turf Club and the Darwin Turf Club to see at first hand the improvements which have already been proceeded with. I must admit that I was most impressed in both cases. Mr Chris Nolan, who is now the secretary/manager at the Alice Springs Turf Club, has done an absolutely amazing job, together with his committee, in improving the facilities at and the aspect of the Alice Springs Turf Club. To date, some \$90 000 has been granted to the club to construct a jockeys and stewards facility. The club has done very well in spending that money. It used its own resources and, on a subcontract basis, built an excellent facility that was opened recently by the member for Araluen who, at the time the project was instigated, was the Minister for Racing and Gaming.

Since then, the Racing and Gaming Board has approved another \$149 000 for the construction at Pioneer Park of public toilets, kiosk facilities, a TAB extension in the public area and refurbishment of the members' bar. I was there the other week. Work has commenced on the toilet block and will be substantially complete in time for the club's major carnival later in the year. The president, Mr Les Lloyd, and his committee are to be congratulated on their efforts on behalf of all racegoers and people interested in racing generally.

In regard to Darwin Turf Club, the board recently approved developments at Fannie Bay racecourse totalling just over \$0.5m. Those facilities will include new canteen facilities. Racegoers would be well aware that the canteen facilities that have been used there to date are stretched to the limit and upgrading has been long awaited. There is to be a double swabbing stall, a new stable complex of some 24 stalls and a security yard. Very importantly, there is to be bitumen sealing and lighting of the public car park area. That sealing is for the benefit not only of racegoers but also for local residents for whom dust has been a problem at some times of the year. All in all, Mr Paul Cattermole, the secretary/manager there, has Fannie Bay racecourse looking as pretty as a picture. The work that he and the president, Mr Ted Bailey, and their committee have done is excellent. They have used their limited resources to good advantage. The Racing and Gaming Board has endorsed their good work as part of the Bennett Report by giving them further grants to improve their facilities.

Allegations Relating to Education System on Groote Eylandt

Mr EDE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Mr Speaker, I draw the minister's attention to wide-ranging and serious allegations relating to what is called an 'old boys' network' on Groote Eylandt. The network is accused of everything from intimidation to sexual harassment. Has he now seen or read the report on those allegations or does it remain locked away, as claimed, with departmental staff? In view of the calls for an inquiry from teachers, unions and others, will the honourable



minister, as a first step, provide a copy of the report to the various parties involved and will he undertake to review the decision of the Secretary of the Department of Education not to take any further action on this matter?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the issue that was raised on the 7.30 Report last night has received a great deal of comment generally. At the outset, I must say that much of that comment has been generated by the General Secretary of the Northern Territory Teachers Federation, Col Young.

Mr Smith: To his credit.

Mr HARRIS: We will see about that in a little while. For an opposition which is supposed to be responsible and which is supposed to be looking after the interests of people who teach in our schools ...

Mr Ede: I brought this to your attention privately 3 months ago, didn't I, Tom?

Mr HARRIS: You should just listen.

Mr Speaker, I believe that what we are hearing are the words of a disgruntled General Secretary of the Northern Territory Teachers Federation. I say that at the outset because there are many teachers in the Northern Territory Teaching Service who are becoming a little concerned about Col Young's attitude towards his job and his position. It is very important that teachers and the department work together to provide the best possible service to people in our communities.

What we have so far is a comment made by the federation which was covered last night on the 7.30 Report. It really is a nonsense. I do not mind investigative reporting by journalists such as those on the 7.30 Report. I do not like it, on many occasions, but I accept that it is part of the normal democratic process. However, it is a pity that often those programs do not present the full facts of the case.

Mr Smith: Why didn't your secretary provide ...

Mr HARRIS: May I just say, Mr Speaker, that the 7.30 Report was aware of a note which had been signed by 22 teachers on Groote Eylandt yesterday. I will read that note because it was not even mentioned in last night's report. I am annoyed about that because these are the sorts of matters that should at least be mentioned in such reports. I do not mind spears being thrown at me, but they should get it right so that the public has the opportunity to realise what it is all about. The note reads:

We, the staff of Alyangula Area School, following claims and allegations made at a special meeting of the school on Monday evening, 5 February 1990, wish the following known:

1. as a staff, we are united in our efforts to provide the best possible education for the children in our care;
2. we have every confidence in the Education Department and its handling of recent matters on Groote Eylandt;

3. as a staff, we are contented with the administration of Alyangula Area School and urge disregard for claims to the contrary; and
4. our support for, and confidence in, our principal, Peter Clarke, is total and unqualified.

That note is signed by 22 teachers. That was one note that had come to my attention which gave support for the actions that had been taken by the Secretary of the Department of Education. Further to that, this morning I have 3 letters which were forwarded to the secretary of the department. I will read them out because they are very important and add some substance to what I was saying about the General Secretary of the Northern Territory Teachers Federation, Col Young. This letter is addressed to Geoff Spring, and it reads as follows:

Dear Sir,

We, the undersigned staff of Umbakumba School, in light of allegations made on the ABC 7.30 Report on 26 February 1990 wish the following to be known as a matter of urgency:

1. we have every faith and confidence in the current system of selection of and the performance of the principal and senior staff at this school and those of our sister schools on Groote Eylandt;
2. we totally refute allegations made against the staff members of each of the schools on Groote Eylandt;
3. we totally refute the nature of allegations made against senior departmental officers; and
4. we unanimously believe that the teachers of Groote Eylandt have been grossly misrepresented by the General Secretary of the Northern Territory Teachers Federation to the detriment of the teaching service officers and the provision of education in the 3 schools.

That was signed by all 6 teachers at Umbakumba. There is a letter from the Alyangula school which covered the same points and made the same comment in relation to Col Young.

Mr Ede: Will you table it?

Mr HARRIS: I am happy to table that letter. The third letter is from the Angurugu Community Education Centre, and it says:

We, the undersigned staff, the Angurugu Community Education Centre, in light of allegations made on the ABC 7.30 Report on 26 February 1990, wish the following to be known as a matter of urgency:

1. we have every faith and confidence in the current system of selection of and the performance of the principal and senior staff of this school and those of our sister schools on Groote Eylandt; and

2. we unanimously believe that the teachers on Groote Eylandt have been grossly misrepresented by the General Secretary of the Northern Territory Teachers Federation to the detriment of the teaching service officers and the provision of education in the 3 schools.

Mr Speaker, what really annoys me about this exercise is that I had a meeting recently with representatives of the Northern Territory Teachers Federation and that matter was not raised on that occasion. That was only a couple of weeks ago. It was not raised because the federation knows that I do not become involved personally in staffing matters. How would I stand, as a minister, if it were found that I was transferring people from one point to another? That would be great ammunition for the members of the opposition. They would say it was ministerial interference. Confidence within the teaching service, indeed within the public service, would be shattered if it were known that a minister was interfering in staffing matters. I have made it very clear that I will not become involved in staffing matters. That is rightly the responsibility of the Secretary of the Department of Education. Under the law, he is required to investigate any concerns or allegations that are made, and he has carried out that duty in a proper and correct fashion. There is no question about that.

The Department of Education has gone to great lengths to put the matter straight in relation to the allegations that have been made. My only interference in the exercise, if it could be called interference, followed from a call from the Manager of the Groote Eylandt Mining Co, indicating that the Northern Territory Teachers Federation had called on mining unions in the area to go on strike to support its cause. I became involved only on the basis of asking the Department of Education to send officers to Groote Eylandt at 4 hours notice in order to attend a public meeting to have the matter straightened out. It was straightened out, and industrial action on the island was averted.

Something has to be made very clear to the opposition, whose members do not seem to get the message. In order for appropriate education to be provided, a stable and harmonious teaching environment is required. There are personality problems in many schools. However, contrary to what has been promoted by the General Secretary of the Teachers Federation, I need to make it clear that, in this case, transfers have not come about as a result of disciplinary action. That has to be placed on record. The fact is that we have provision for compulsory transfer. It happens throughout the Territory. Naturally, the Northern Territory Teachers Federation is opposed to compulsory transfer. As I have indicated to you, Mr Speaker, the system is in place. It is nonsensical to suggest that any transfer of teachers from Groote Eylandt or anywhere else has occurred as a result of disciplinary action.

Mr Ede: Has there been any counselling of the teachers involved?

Mr HARRIS: All right. We get back to the issue of whether any counselling has been involved.

Mr Ede: Of compulsory transferees.

Mr HARRIS: As a result of this exercise, and as a result of the report, which has supposedly been locked up where no one can see it, 10 people from the Department of Education have been counselled: 5 senior officers, 3 principals, a superintendent and an assistant. To say that nothing has happened is nonsense.

Mr Ede: Compulsory transferees were never counselled.

Mr HARRIS: Mr Speaker, as I have made very clear, we must try to consider the whole environment. After all, children's education is at stake and a stable learning environment is needed. People may have problems in the community. I am not talking about personal problems, which are their business. The bottom line is that schools must run effectively and efficiently. We try to operate a system which enables that to happen.

I want to make it very clear that the Secretary of the Department of Education has carried out his responsibilities correctly in this exercise. There is no question about that. I repeat that I will not become involved in staffing matters. There are appropriate courses of action which can be taken by teachers if they are not satisfied that the Secretary of the Department of Education has done the right thing. I am happy to receive letters or comment from them but, as I said, there is no substance to many of the allegations at this stage. Some of the allegations are true, but are not of a nature which relates to anything which can be defined as misconduct under the Northern Territory Teaching Service Act. That is a fact. Many allegations relate to the private lives of people. That is a matter for the individuals concerned and, indeed, some people are taking action against those who have made particular allegations. I make no further comment in relation to that.

Mr Ede interjecting.

Mr HARRIS: Many of the allegations are based on hearsay. Members of the opposition do not seem to want to hear this either. Many of the people on both sides realise that wrongs did occur, and they have apologised. That should be the end of the matter.

Mr Ede interjecting.

Mr HARRIS: If you are saying that, after people have apologised and said they were sorry it all happened, they should be sacked or transferred, one can only wonder about the type of system that would exist under a Labor government. It would be a disaster in terms of confidence in the community.

Mr Speaker, there is only one outstanding matter which, I am led to believe, relates to sexual harassment. That matter is being investigated and will be investigated further.

In answer to the honourable member's question, the report is not available. Action has been taken in relation to the matter. The General Secretary of the Northern Territory Teachers Federation has been involved in a disgraceful exercise. He has been promoting all this nonsense in an attempt to create a furphy that the Department of Education has a network which is moving people around and is looking after only those who have a particular interest. That is a load of nonsense and the record needs to be corrected on that. I am happy to field any questions in relation to this or anything else. However, I stress that, as the Minister for Education, I will not become involved in matters which should properly be addressed by the Secretary of the Department of Education.

Member for Wanguri's Question on Katatjuta Road

Mr PALMER to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Since being questioned by the member for Wanguri in relation to information contained in a publication of his department, has he familiarised himself with the contents of that publication and, if so, does it support the member for Wanguri's allegations?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the Minister for Education has just demonstrated very clearly that opposition members have a capacity for not listening to and not understanding what they hear or read. Honourable members may well recall the very sarcastic nature of the member for Wanguri's questioning last Thursday in respect of the desert oaks and the Olgas road. When I obtained a copy of the document to which he referred, I found that the member for Wanguri had deliberately and maliciously misled this House.

Mr Speaker, what the member for Wanguri was attempting to do in support of his federal colleague ...

Mr EDE: A point of order, Mr Speaker! As you know, allegations of this nature, directed against a member of this House, must be dealt with by way of substantive motion. If the honourable minister wishes to do that, I will be quite happy to take the matter on board. Otherwise, however, he is not permitted to make allusions of that nature in this House.

Mr SPEAKER: I advise the Minister for Transport and Works that he must withdraw the words 'deliberately' and 'maliciously' or move a substantive motion under standing order 61.

Mr FINCH: Mr Speaker, after some deliberation, I had not intended to move a substantive motion in regard to the misleading of this House, and a reference to the Privileges Committee. However, under the circumstances, I must now do so. In speaking to that motion ...

Mr Smith: It has not been moved. Move it.

Mr FINCH: Mr Speaker, I move - I wish to raise a matter of privilege involving the member for Wanguri.

Mr SPEAKER: Is leave granted? Leave is granted.

Mr FINCH: In a question he put to me on Thursday, in a futile attempt to pass the buck to the Department of Transport and Works and, of course, to myself for the malicious ...

Mr TUXWORTH: A point of order, Mr Speaker! Could I get a point of clarification from you, Sir? Is question time now terminated, and we are debating a censure motion?

Mr SPEAKER: There is a motion before the Chair, brought by the honourable Minister for Transport and Works against the member for Wanguri for misleading the House. The honourable minister is now speaking to his motion.

Mr Ede: But what is the motion?

Mr SPEAKER: The honourable minister might repeat his motion.

Mr TUXWORTH: Mr Speaker, I apologise. I did not hear any motion, and I was listening to hear that.

Mr SPEAKER: Leave was granted for the honourable minister to move his motion.

Mr HATTON: Mr Speaker, the honourable minister has raised a matter of privilege, and he is seeking the opportunity to put the matter. The honourable minister did not put a motion. He raised a matter of privilege and is presently seeking to speak to explain that matter.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Minister for Transport and Works must move a substantive motion if he means to raise a matter of privilege against the member for Wanguri in relation to his misleading of this House. The Minister for Transport and Works is able to move a motion to censure the member for Wanguri for misleading the House. I understand that that is what he is doing.

Mr Smith: No, he is not. He has changed his mind, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the Opposition will take it easy too. The minister is able to move his motion. I understood that he had moved his motion.

Mr FINCH: Mr Speaker, I seek leave to move that the member for Wanguri be censured in relation to a matter of privilege.

Mr SPEAKER: Is leave granted? Leave is granted.

MOTION  
Censure of Member for Wanguri

Mr FINCH: Mr Speaker, I move that the member for Wanguri be censured for deliberately and maliciously misleading the Assembly during debate on Thursday 22 February 1990.

In question time last Thursday, the honourable member quoted from a document from the Department of Transport and Works, the October issue of the in-house publication *The Journal* and, in so doing, he attempted to transfer responsibility for demolition of 150 desert oaks by the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service to the Department of Transport and Works. To quote from the *Daily Hansard*, the honourable member said: 'Is the minister aware of one highly authoritative source which paid glowing tribute to the environmental planning of the road, and is he aware that that tribute included the following statements ...?' The honourable member then went on to quote, allegedly from the said document.

At the time, I indicated that I was not familiar with the words spoken by the member for Wanguri and I was ridiculed for so doing, but there was very good reason why I did not recognise the words spoken. The reason was very simple, because not only was the member for Wanguri very selective in his quotation, using part sentences and including some words of his own but - and I will table the document, he had taken totally unrelated matters from 3 separate parts of the article and pulled them together to express a totally different meaning for the purpose of trying to shift the blame to the Department of Transport and Works.

In the first instance, one-third of his quotation was part of a sentence which pertained to the negotiations between myself and the federal Minister for Transport and Communications, Mr Brown, and our various officers in coming to terms on the funding for the project, the \$8m which was made up by the Department of Transport and Works. The range of negotiations allowed everyone involved to voice an opinion and, of course, they did so. That part of the quotation pertained to the negotiations on funding, because it has been demonstrated quite clearly that there were no negotiations in regard to the environment.

The environmental issues were totally the domain of the ANPWS, as has been explained already. In fact, in the environmental impact assessment stages, the Department of Transport and Works had no input. Despite allegations by Mr Snowdon and by the member for Wanguri, the department did not receive a copy of the environmental impact assessment to comment on. Even when the department was commissioned to do the design, and consultants were commissioned under a sub-consultancy to do the design, no one was given a copy of that environmental impact assessment which laid down specific saving provisions for the desert oaks and a specific route allocation. It was clearly demonstrated that those negotiations all related to funding, towards which the Territory government had to contribute over \$1m in order to embarrass the federal government into doing something about the disgraceful state of the road to the Olgas.

In the second part of the honourable member's quotation, again he used parts of sentences, skipping a few phrases, and he said that 'the route has been determined almost entirely by environmental considerations ...'. He then ran the same sentence into a third component in the article, a column across and several paragraphs further on, and gave another partial quotation to indicate that all environmental issues had been sorted out.

In regard to the second component, that phraseology refers to the mulgara rats and, in the original, the words 'the route was determined almost entirely by environmental considerations' were followed by 'and authorised by the Uluru National Park Board'. Once again, that emphasised that the authority for the route was with the ANPWS and the board of management of the park. The second part of the honourable member's offering had nothing to do with anything except the rats. The third part - 'while all the environmental issues have been sorted out' - was contained in a sentence that pertained to an emergency landing strip for aircraft on the new road. It had nothing to do with issues relating to the desert oaks which were part of the honourable member's sarcastic introduction to his question.

Mr Speaker, you can see that there was a futile attempt to transfer responsibility unfairly and totally without foundation to myself and the Department of Transport and Works. The member for Wanguri has a habit of misquoting and deliberately misleading. He demonstrated that in respect of Frog Hollow. He demonstrated it during his election campaign when he said a property in Rocklands Drive was part of the Casuarina Coastal Reserve. He misquoted deliberately in an attempt to get his point across. If the member for Wanguri has to rely on misquoting and misleading this House and the general public, he will not go anywhere.

Mr Speaker, I had no desire to impose on you, the Clerk and others the extra work required to deliberate on this matter of privilege because I did not believe that the member for Wanguri warranted it. However, it is important because not only this House but the listening public heard the fabrication, the part quotations from and the selective misrepresentation of

an article written in good faith by the Department of Transport and Works. As I said on Thursday, it was based on the not unreasonable expectation that the custodians of a national park would follow their own environmental advice and do the right thing.

The honourable member's pathetic and apologetic contribution to the debate in relation to the ANPWS the other day demonstrated that he had nothing of substance to say about the matter. His actions, along with those of the so-called environmental groups, have not demonstrated a scrap of responsibility in relation to this issue. That irresponsibility is shared by ABC television which has sat on an exclusive film. It has not released it for public consumption around Australia, as was required of it, despite the fact that it was filmed at the taxpayers' expense. No wonder the member for Wanguri is clutching at straws of fabrication to make his point. No wonder the federal member, Warren Snowdon, refuses to debate on the 7.30 Report with me this fundamental and simple issue of the desert oaks. I have no hesitation now in proceeding with this motion.

Mr SMITH (Opposition Leader): Mr Speaker, the reason that I rise first is that we have some discipline on this side of the House. We know from one moment to the next what we intend to do in the Legislative Assembly. We do not allow ourselves to be caught in the ridiculous position that honourable members opposite have been caught in.

Let me start by saying, Mr Speaker, that censure motions are pretty serious. They are the one means that this House has to place on the record its concern, its dismay and, at times, its disgust with the actions of particular members. Such a motion should not be used lightly. In his contribution, the honourable minister said - and I noted it down - that he did not believe it warranted it. He actually stated that he did not believe that this issue warranted a censure motion, and his actions today have demonstrated that. First, he attempted to make a personal explanation and, in so doing, revealed his ignorance of the rules of this parliament. He was ruled out of order. He then set up a dorothy dixer. Again, he was ruled out of order, when he attempted to make an accusation that was more in the nature of a substantive motion than an answer to a question. Then, in a desperate and final attempt to justify himself, we had a censure motion which he himself did not believe was warranted.

This is the most pathetic attempt we have seen from any member to move a censure motion in this House. Let us look at this statement, and I will not go into this in any great detail because the member for Wanguri will do that. What we have is the member for Wanguri, during question time one day last week, drawing to the attention of the Minister for Transport and Works that there was a statement, of which he was unaware, in his own department's publication, The Journal. The relevant extracts indicated very clearly and precisely that there had been extensive negotiations between the 2 government authorities and that there had been agreement. I will quote 1 paragraph: 'As a result, the new road route has been determined almost entirely by environmental considerations ...'

Mr Finch: Finish it!

Mr SMITH: ... 'and authorised by the Uluru National Park Board'. There is no question of the member for Wanguri misleading this House. All we are involved in is a mischievous misuse of this House's time. The Minister for Transport and Works is attempting to assume the mantle of the Minister for Industries and Development in his efforts to shoot holes in his foot as



often and as large as possible. That is what has happened in this debate. It is a waste of time.

Mr BAILEY (Wanguri): Mr Speaker, I am surprised that the Minister for Transport and Works rose to speak on what to me seems to be such a pathetic issue. A question was asked last week in this House that included a number of quotations from a document. Unfortunately, the way Hansard may be ...

Members interjecting.

Mr BAILEY: In my question, I referred the honourable minister to a number of quotes that were taken directly from this document.

Mr Finch: Part quotes.

Mr BAILEY: A quote is a quote, whether it is a whole sentence, part of a sentence or 3 or 4 words.

Members interjecting.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, speaking as an ex-teacher, we used to refer at times to certain students as 'animals'. I have never seen students behave the way honourable members opposite are behaving.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member for Wanguri will withdraw the remarks relating to honourable members of this parliament as behaving in an animal-like fashion.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I withdraw unreservedly. I was not referring to them as animals.

Mr Speaker, I refer the Minister for Transport and Works to the document. Perhaps he can read the document, read Hansard and watch my lips as I read it - and I am sure that that is a quote from somewhere else. If he looks at the fourth paragraph, it states: 'The range of negotiations allowed everyone involved to voice an opinion'.

Mr Finch: Relating to what?

Mr BAILEY: Relating to the road. The quote is: 'The range of negotiations allowed everyone involved to voice an opinion'. What is wrong with that? What word is out of place? What is incorrect with it?

The next statement is that 'the route has been determined almost entirely by environmental considerations and all the environmental issues have been sorted out'. Those are the quotes.

Mr Finch: Tell us about the rats.

Mr BAILEY: What about the rats? What are you talking about? That is all you are worried about. The censure motion alleges that I misled this House. What a load of rubbish!

Mr HATTON (Health and Community Services): Mr Speaker, the arguments of the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Wanguri are equivalent to saying that you can quote the Gettysburg Address from the Oxford Dictionary. That is about what he has done. He has picked out words from here, there and somewhere else and put them together into a statement clearly designed to give an impression in this House that a specific

attitudinal position had been adopted and negotiations had occurred involving the Department of Transport and Works, and that statements had been published by that department which the minister did not know about. We know now why the minister was not aware of that. It was not recorded. The member stated: 'The range of the negotiations allowed everyone involved to voice an opinion. The route has been determined almost entirely by environmental considerations and all the environmental issues have been sorted out'. Those are the words from the Daily Hansard. That reads as a straight sentence.

When we refer to the article, Mr Speaker, what do we find? I will read the paragraph before this statement. It says: 'The project, covering more than 40 km and costing \$8m of joint Northern Territory and federal funds, is due to begin in October'. It was due to begin in October. It had not even started at that stage. The article continues:

NT Minister for Transport and Works, Fred Finch, and federal Minister for Transport and Shipping Support, Bob Brown, jointly announced the project after negotiations were complete.

The range of the negotiations allowed everyone involved to voice an opinion, even the apparently rare mulgara.

A small furry thing, 20 cm long, the mulgara exercised its power by moving the road 5 km to a new alignment when ANPWS officers discovered a mulgarian nest on the first alignment.

Director (Roads Design), Kevin Williams, and Southern Region engineers, Julie Dawson and Bob Phillips, discussed the problem and a good many more which arose.

As a result, the road route has been determined almost entirely by environmental considerations and authorised by the Uluru National Park Board.

That last sentence is the second part of the quotation read by the member for Wanguri. It took us a while to find it. We need to move on by another half page or so to find the other matters to which the honourable member referred. I will read the whole of the text because it is the only way to put the matters in context.

The ANPWS was closely involved in the design process and heavy constraints were placed on the survey, design and construction of the road to accommodate the environment.

The design included a gradeline sympathetic to the environment and the sandhills have been avoided.

Negotiations covered the individual trees which are to be retained, and all stands of trees will remain so that bush clearing for the roadway will be absolutely minimal.

Design Project Engineer (Alice Springs) Bob Pemble said a program of sinking bores was now in place to provide water for construction.

Construction of the new Olgas road promises to be a state-of-the-art operation.

There are to be no borrow pits in the park, so gravel will be hauled long distances for the earthworks.

No offlet drains will be allowed, but Roads have come up with an innovative drainage design taking advantage of internal drainage systems in the land covered.

The construction crew will have to camp outside the national park and access for construction will be limited to the cleared formation area.

And the conditions of construction will not be the only challenge to the Roadies and their contractors.

We come now to the last part of the member for Wanguri's quotation:

While all the environmental issues have been sorted out, the Uluru National Park Board is considering a proposal for a section of the new road to be available for emergency aircraft landing, if the Connellan Airport runway were to be out of commission.

That is substantially different to the member for Wanguri's quotation:

The range of the negotiations allowed everyone involved to voice an opinion. The route has been determined almost entirely by environmental considerations and all the environmental issues have been sorted out.

Mr Bailey: It is 3 sentences. The little dots ...

Mr HATTON: Mr Speaker, I note that there are little dots in between. They are recorded as 3 sentences but there is a clear impression that they are consecutive sentences.

The member for Wanguri was making the point that, somehow, the Department of Transport Works had been fully aware of this, had agreed to it all, and was in fact boasting about what a wonderful job it had done. That was far from true. The article was written before the road construction had even commenced. Clearly, the quotation was taken out of context and was designed to mislead this House. Mr Speaker, I support the motion.

Mr LEO (Nhulunbuy): Mr Speaker, the chaos continues. I am wondering when the Leader of Government Business will show some leadership in this House. We had chaos from him last week and I suppose that we cannot expect much more than that. Last week, we saw the Minister for Transport and Works trying to be the stalking horse for a hack in the run-up to the next federal election. Today, he has put forward this trite nonsense, and that is the only way one can describe it. It is absolute nonsense. If the Leader of Government Business is unable to control himself, I ask simply that at least he try to control the pathetic collection which surrounds him.

Mr Speaker, question time has been wiped out today with what is nothing more than absolute nonsense. The minister knows, as everybody in this House knows, that if he is concerned that a member may have misled the House, the matter should be referred to the Privileges Committee. That is no problem. It can be done in a snap. Instead of doing that, however, the minister brought on a motion of censure against my colleague. The minister is wasting the time of this House. I can only say that the conduct of this House has deteriorated significantly during the last 12 months. I suppose

poor old Helen Galton has a real problem. Who is going to do her work for her? But, for heaven's sake, can't the CLP get somebody better than this? The Minister for Transport and Works could not move a thoroughbred, let alone a hack. He has wasted the time of this House. He has wasted question time. He has abused the processes of this House.

Mr Finch: What about the motion?

Mr LEO: The motion is an absolute nonsense. The minister is an absolute nonsense. The motion should be defeated and seen for the piece of ridiculous grandstanding that it is.

Mr MANZIE (Attorney-General): Mr Speaker, I rise to make a few comments. I find it most distressing that we have seen this performance from the opposition this morning. The member for Wanguri said that the minister's reason for this motion was 'pathetic'. I find it disturbing that the member for Wanguri finds the search for truth pathetic, because truth is the essence of the operation of this parliament. When a member deliberately misleads the House, there is provision for a censure motion such as this and other steps and procedures, the end result of which can be the dismissal of that member. It is a serious matter and to describe it as 'pathetic' shows that the member for Wanguri's attitude to this parliament is indeed the wrong attitude and is in need of change.

Mr Speaker, the people who are responsible for changing the attitude of the member for Wanguri are people like the Leader of the Opposition. Members opposite should take him aside and explain parliamentary protocol to him. However, what do we see instead? We see them defending him when he has been caught out misleading the parliament. It is very clear that he quoted selectively from a document. He took a line from each of 3 columns on a page, and threw the 3 lines together in order to try to create an impression which, in fact, was totally the opposite of what the article actually said.

Mr Bailey: Rubbish! Read the article.

Mr MANZIE: Lately, we have heard the Leader of the Opposition claiming that he has the answer for the Territory. This is the new-look ALP, with men of integrity and honesty. The Leader of the Opposition says: 'If they do the wrong thing, I will dismiss them immediately. Look at this! I dismissed the candidate for Nightcliff because he used party letterhead improperly'. That was a bit selective. The Labor candidate for Koolpinyah was rather free in his efforts at plagiarism, but no action was taken. Those examples in the last couple of months show the dangers of the attitude which the Leader of the Opposition has adopted. He says that he is clean but, in fact, behind the scenes, the opposite is the case. If he is fair dinkum about his pursuit of the truth, his colleague has given him a perfect example of someone deliberately manufacturing untruth. He deliberately collected several quotations and put them together to mislead the House.

The member for Wanguri has done this before. He has done it with the Frog Hollow matter. As we know, Frog Hollow is a park which is in the hands of the Darwin City Council. However, the member for Wanguri tried to convince the community that a road was to be put through it. That is a good example. Another good example occurred during the Wanguri by-election campaign, when the honourable member tried, with partial success, to convince the community that a particular block of land on Rocklands Drive was part of the Casuarina Coastal Reserve and was to be built on. In fact, it was a privately-owned block of land, purchased about 8 years before. The

impression that he tried to create was, quite definitely, a lie. It was untruthful and, Mr Speaker, the member for Wanguri ...

Mr BELL: A point of order, Mr Speaker! The honourable Attorney-General has referred to a matter which is in no way the subject of this motion and I believe that he should be requested to return to the matter before the House.

Mr SPEAKER: I would ask the honourable Attorney-General to confine his remarks to the motion.

Mr MANZIE: Mr Speaker, I shall do so.

The member for Wanguri must learn very quickly that the parliament is a place where truth is important. He has to conduct his business in this House in a far more appropriate manner, not as he conducts it out on the street. If he cannot do that, he will be censured in this House. His actions will be brought to his attention and to the attention of the community.

I will close, Mr Speaker, with a quotation based on the rules which the member for Wanguri considers to be quite acceptable in this House. He said a few minutes ago that it is okay to quote selectively. Therefore, I will quote the member for Wanguri: 'This Assembly condemns the uncooperative and confrontationalist attitude of ... the federal government ... on Tracy Village Social Club in the precinct in my electorate'. Following the member for Wanguri's rules, that is a selective quotation from the Hansard of 22 February 1990.

Mr COULTER (Leader of Government Business): Mr Speaker, I move that the motion be put.

The Assembly divided:

Ayes 16

Noes 8

Mr Collins  
Mr Coulter  
Mr Dondas  
Mr Finch  
Mr Firmin  
Mr Harris  
Mr Hatton  
Mr McCarthy  
Mr Manzie  
Mrs Padgham-Purich  
Mr Palmer  
Mr Perron  
Mr Poole  
Mr Reed  
Mr Setter  
Mr Vale

Mr Bailey  
Mr Bell  
Mr Ede  
Mr Floreani  
Mr Leo  
Mr Smith  
Mr Tipiloura  
Mr Tuxworth

Motion agreed to.

Mr SPEAKER: The question is that the motion be agreed to.

The Assembly divided:

Ayes 16

Noes 8

Mr Collins  
Mr Coulter  
Mr Dondas  
Mr Finch  
Mr Firmin  
Mr Harris  
Mr Hatton  
Mr McCarthy  
Mr Manzie  
Mrs Padgham-Purich  
Mr Palmer  
Mr Perron  
Mr Poole  
Mr Reed  
Mr Setter  
Mr Vale

Mr Bailey  
Mr Bell  
Mr Ede  
Mr Floreani  
Mr Leo  
Mr Smith  
Mr Tipiloura  
Mr Tuxworth

Motion agreed to.

Mr COULTER (Leader of Government Business): Mr Speaker, I ask that any further questions be placed on the notice paper.

Trade Development Zone

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIES and DEVELOPMENT

Mr Speaker, because it is necessary to preface this question with a few short facts, I seek your indulgence. The minister has stated that he will not refer allegations of criminal activity in the Trade Development Zone to the Northern Territory Police Force pending the outcome of the DIR investigation. On the other hand, the DIR says that it has neither the powers nor the brief to investigate criminal allegations. I possess a transcript of parts of the media briefing by the minister's press secretary in which allegations were recorded of extreme coercion, financial skimming and intimidation against workers at the zone. I have asked the minister to inform police of these matters and he has refused. Subsequently, I have taken, and I accept, legal advice that, while the law does not compel me to put this information in the hands of the police, there is a strong moral obligation on me to do so. I wish to advise the honourable minister that I have this morning followed that advice. Will he ensure that his staff cooperate fully and provide details of their allegations in any inquiries that the police may choose to conduct?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the answer is yes.

Commonwealth Employment Service

Mr FIRMIN to MINISTER for LABOUR, ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES and LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Can he confirm a report that I received last week that the federal government intends to extend the concept of user pays to the CES, and the annual charge to the Northern Territory government is likely to be in the region of \$50 000 per annum in future?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I can confirm that the user pays system has been extended to the CES. We received notification in January that, as of 1 January, we would be expected to pay for services provided by the Commonwealth Employment Service. For some years, the Northern Territory government has had a policy of recruiting through the CES for all its base grade positions. Obviously, that notification forced the government to consider its position vis-a-vis the CES given that, in the past, that service was provided at nil cost, and the confirmed price for this calendar year was \$50 000, but expected to rise in future years perhaps to considerably more than that, based on 50%, in their view, of what it costs to recruit those base grade positions to the Northern Territory.

The Northern Territory government has decided to use that system for the present and at least until the end of this year. We will look at the situation again in the latter half of 1990 to decide whether, in fact, it is worth our while to continue using that service. One wonders what the Commonwealth Employment Service would do if the Northern Territory government said that it would not pay. Would the CES refuse to send people to the Northern Territory government for jobs that are available if we did not pay? I wonder just what the CES would do in that case. Because it is funded by the taxpayer, I believe that it has an obligation ensure that people who go there looking for jobs, should be sent to the best job

available for their skills. Obviously, the public sector in the Northern Territory is best equipped to pick up those people. What would happen, Mr Speaker, if we said that we will not respond to the threat that, if we do not pay \$50 000, the service will not be provided. Obviously, the CES cannot do that. However, we have decided to play the game until such time as we are able to determine whether we are getting value for money. If we find that we are not, we may consider other means.

#### X-Rated Videos

Mr COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

The Attorney-General would be aware of moves which may result in the banning of X-rated videos in the ACT. He may be aware also that the pornographic industry has stated its intention, if that occurs, to move to the Territory, which is the only remaining place in Australia where pornographic movies are not banned. What is the government's attitude to this threat?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government and I have made it very clear that, if such eventualities arise in Canberra, we will move to introduce legislation to prevent the X-rated video manufacturing industry setting up and operating in the Territory.

#### Proposed Funding Cuts by Federal Coalition

Mr EDE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is the Chief Minister and Treasurer aware that, on ABC radio this morning, the federal Leader of the Opposition said that, if elected, he would cut federal funding by \$2700m? Has the Chief Minister costed the extent of those cuts as they would affect the Northern Territory budget and economy? Is he aware that cuts outlined in the Liberal and National Party economic plan, on a per capita basis, would result in cuts of over \$11m to the Territory budget, over \$22m in Aboriginal affairs, more than \$6m in unemployment benefits and so forth? I have copies of the total list if honourable members are interested, and it would result in total cuts of more than \$50m per year to the Territory economy. Is the Chief Minister prepared to advise small businessmen that, in the unlikely event of a Liberal and National Party victory, the proposed federal funding cuts will have a disastrous effect on the continued viability of Territory small business?

Mr SPEAKER: The Chief Minister can take his time in answering this question because I felt that it was very long-winded. The member for Stuart should not chide the Chief Minister during his reply.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, really, the honourable member has posed the question which confronts the Australian people at present: do they want more of what they have had for the past 6 or 7 years or do they want change? In my view, a clear message is coming through: people want change. They have had enough of the tax policies of the present federal government. It has introduced a fringe benefits tax, a capital gains tax, taxes on superannuation, Medicare levies and so on. The list is a mile long. The petrol tax stands at 29¢ per litre today, and it is levied by a government which, in previous election campaigns, promised a cut in petrol prices. Of course, petrol



prices are a very significant factor in Territory life because of our high reliance on long-distance transportation.

Australians are fed up with the fall in living standards which they have suffered under this federal government and with the fact that the government has continually taken away from them responsibility for looking after their own lives, responsibility which they would prefer to have themselves. They want to get the government's hand out of their pockets as far as taxes are concerned and they want the government to stop doing everything for citizens because of its belief that they do not have the responsibility or the brain power to look after their own affairs. They want some individual freedom and they want the government to get out of their pockets.

Clearly, there will be some pruning of federal government expenditure, and who would deny that there are areas of federal expenditure which could well do with some very savage cuts? For years, we have all heard of the preposterous spending scandals which this federal government has been involved in, including paying for poetry writers for the Painters and Dockers Union and the like. There is a list as long as your arm - surfboards for women, the promotion of the lesbian movement and whatever.

The way this federal government has used Australian taxpayers' money has been a scandal. Nevertheless, it continues this relentless pursuit of taking more from them when, in fact, it should be taking less. Clearly, the Territory will be far better off under a Coalition government than it is under this federal government. At least, we will be creating some enterprise in the Northern Territory and in this country so we can get out of the hole that the country is in. We will have some development. We will not see continuing procrastination on airports and projects like Coronation Hill. We will have uranium mined in this country under a sensible policy instead of this nonsense about South Australian uranium being good and Northern Territory uranium bad. That is the type of hypocritical drivel that Territorians have had to put up with now for years. I can see a big wave coming across this country and across the Northern Territory when we rid ourselves of the apologists that we have had in Canberra - apologists for the federal government at every opportunity.

I was very pleased to hear Mr Peacock's advice to Territorians this morning. He accepted the principles of the full self-government package that I placed before the Prime Minister a year ago and in response to which I received just one letter referring me to the Minister for Territories, Mr Holding, indicating that he would respond on the Prime Minister's behalf, and I have had no response. What was I asking? I was asking to establish a committee of public servants to work out a timetable for full self-government. The Hawke government has not been prepared to make even that concession to Territorians, that it would set up a committee to examine the matter. At least, it could have done that, but not even that has happened in 12 months. That is the attention this federal government is giving to the Northern Territory's individual needs.

We have a commitment that the Northern Territory government can talk to the federal government about the formal repatriation of the Land Rights Act to this government and about the repatriation of national parks, and yet this preposterous federal government authority, the ANPWS, whose bungling handling of national parks is a disgrace, demonstrates the very reason why Territorians sought self-government in those years of Commonwealth control. All we hear from our parliamentary colleagues opposite is apologies. They do not want the ANPWS out of the Territory. They do not want the Territory

to gain control of the Land Rights Act. They do not want uranium to be mined, nor do they want Coronation Hill to be mined. What are they doing in this House, supposedly representing Territorians? They ought to be ashamed of themselves.

#### Seismic Array at Alice Springs

Mr POOLE to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Commonwealth government agreed to relocate the seismic array at Alice Springs to make way for urban expansion which is expected in the future in the Undoolya area?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this is an important matter because not only does it raise the subject of federal constraints on Northern Territory development, but it raises the attitude adopted by the federal government towards the Northern Territory. We have had a most unsatisfactory dialogue with the federal government over the relocation of the seismic array at Alice Springs. For those honourable members who are unaware, the seismic array is a device owned by the Commonwealth which monitors earthquakes, and possibly nuclear explosions, around the world. It is a sensitive piece of equipment that is located in central Australia.

Honourable members may recall that, in March last year, the Prime Minister called a special Premiers Conference on Housing. At that conference, I raised the issue of the seismic array adjacent to Alice Springs and the possible disruption to the array which future housing development at Undoolya might generate. At that meeting, the Commonwealth was putting on a brave face to try to save Australia from the housing crisis by offering Commonwealth action and Commonwealth land to facilitate land availability for urban expansion right across Australia. Very rightly, we raised the subject of the seismic array and the expansion of Alice Springs.

Mr Bell: When was that, Marshall?

Mr PERRON: In March 1989.

Mr Bell: The first time?

Mr PERRON: Mr Speaker, in fact, the matter had been raised at some earlier time.

Mr Bell: Eight years ago.

Mr PERRON: Mr Speaker, this matter has been raised on a number of occasions and, in August 1988, I wrote to the Prime Minister setting out a very clear case for the relocation of the seismic array and seeking the Commonwealth's cooperative involvement. The principal focus at the Premiers Conference was to identify constraints on the provision of housing right across Australia, particularly federal constraints. The seismic array was raised as the Territory's example of a constraint. Its impact on the future of Alice Springs is an important issue to us, and we sought the Commonwealth's cooperation. At the conference, I was invited to follow the matter up and I did so by sending a letter to the minister responsible, the Minister for Administrative Services. Mr Speaker, I table the letter I wrote to Hon Stewart West in that regard. Obviously, I overestimated what I

thought was genuine intent by the Commonwealth at that conference to meet the reasonable needs of the states.

I received advice from the Commonwealth wherein it stated categorically that it was not prepared to assist in meeting the relocation costs of the seismic array and that its relocation would have to be effected at Territory expense. The spirit of cooperation, which we understood was being sought through the special Premiers Conference on Housing, had clearly not been taken to heart by the Commonwealth. We were simply being fobbed off.

I have now advised the Commonwealth that, as a result of its attitude, the Northern Territory is faced with having to proceed with the urban development at Undoolya at a time dictated by ourselves and, if that course causes a significant degradation in the performance of the seismic array, that will be a problem that the Commonwealth will have to address itself. I am not sure whether the federal government quite knows which minister is handling the seismic array issue, but I was advised to write to Hon Peter Cook, Minister for Resources, on this matter.

We have now advised that, since the Commonwealth will not accept the spirit which was put forward at the Premiers conference of its helping the states to come to grips with urban expansion problems, the Northern Territory will proceed anyway. We have forewarned the Commonwealth that, if its seismic array is disturbed - and we have had unofficial advice that urban development near it probably will render it useless - the Commonwealth will simply have to pick it up and move it. The seismic array itself does not impinge physically on the areas into which we need to expand for urban development. We can proceed without Commonwealth cooperation, but it is sad that an issue which is of no great moment to the Commonwealth is met by this attitude that it is only the Northern Territory and why should it bother with us.

#### Subdivisions at Mataranka

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY INDUSTRY and FISHERIES

When reading the annual report of the ADMA, I noted an item that said that land had been subdivided in the Venn and Flemming subdivisions at Mataranka but was still not settled. Could the minister give an indication of why this would be so, and what plans he or his department has to sell these areas so that more farmers can go on the land?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, is the honourable member saying that land was available and set aside, but is not available.

Mrs Padgham-Purich: No. It has been subdivided but not sold.

Mr REED: Mr Speaker, I am aware that land has been set aside and some subdivision has occurred. Indeed, some land has been sold and further negotiations are under way. I will have to pursue specific details for the honourable member. However, I know that recently a cashew farmer has taken up some land in the Venn subdivision. I was there a couple of weeks ago to look at the stock that he has in his nursery and at his plans to develop the land that he has taken up. I will provide details to the honourable member later.

Coalition Policy on Unemployment Benefits

Mr TIPILOURA to MINISTER for LABOUR, ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES and LOCAL GOVERNMENT

I draw the minister's attention to the Peacock policy which plans to cut dole payments after 9 months. Does he realise that such a policy would force many of his constituents and mine back on to rations to survive? Does he approve of this or will he make representation on behalf of our constituents about the policy change now that Mr Peacock is here?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I wonder whether the honourable member has heard his own Prime Minister's policy of recent times which goes further perhaps than the current federal opposition's policy that he refers to. One of the things that this government is doing to address the problems on Aboriginal communities, rather than go down the line of continual unemployment benefits, is to tackle the real problems of employment and training in communities, and we are doing that with vigour. That is the way to overcome the problem.

For the benefit of the honourable member opposite, a federal Coalition government, while cutting out the dole after 9 months, would allow for special categories of people where no work was available and where there were real problems in finding employment, which is the sort of situation that exists in Aboriginal communities, and they would be picked up. I have that as a guarantee, and I can assure the honourable member that his own mate in Canberra, the Prime Minister, has a policy which is far more devastating to people in the communities than would be the policy of the Coalition.

Mr Ede: \$52m in cuts for Territory!

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

In-vitro Fertilisation Services

Mr POOLE to MINISTER for HEALTH and COMMUNITY SERVICES

There is a demand throughout Australia for in-vitro fertilisation services and I know that there are many Northern Territory couples - indeed, I have had a number of them visit me - for whom this represents possibly the only chance for them to have their own child. What is the government in the Northern Territory doing to assist such couples?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, there is no doubt that the issue of in-vitro fertilisation has been a highly emotional one in the Northern Territory for some time. Honourable members will be aware that some people in the Northern Territory are receiving access to IVF by way of the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme but, as a result of budget restrictions and other priorities, new admissions to the PAT Scheme for IVF were cancelled in 1987. The government has continued to investigate this very significant area for women, and families generally, and has been working to develop a policy. Honourable members will be aware that, in this year's budget, a new initiative provision of \$100 000 was allocated to do something in respect of IVF. Prior to

advising honourable members exactly what is proposed in that area, I must say that a number of issues need to be addressed.

First, there is a body of folklore about IVF that needs to be clearly established. It is a lengthy process and a process that has a very low success rate ...

Mr Smith: And it is very costly.

Mr HATTON: And it is extremely costly. It is extremely time-consuming and, in many cases, very harrowing for people who go through it. Nonetheless, it is a facility that some families believe is the only option available that offers them any chance of having a child. You can appreciate, Mr Speaker, that it is a very emotional matter for couples who are desperate to have children and who, through natural circumstances, are not able to procreate their own children in the normal manner. We are concerned, for example, that people who decide to go into an IVF program be fully aware of the implications, that they understand what they are going into, and that the choice they make is an informed choice and a choice free of pressure.

Articles on this issue appeared recently in 'Choice' and concern was expressed that some clinics are somewhat fudging the figures as to the likely success rate and the ease with which such programs could be carried out. There appears to be some underplaying of the risks involved, including such risks as the increasing probability of congenital abnormalities that appear to be occurring as a consequence of the IVF programs. Nonetheless, the government is working on a program. Recently, a specialist obstetrician and gynaecologist was appointed to the Royal Darwin Hospital and this person has a particular interest and a background in relation to infertility and IVF.

In order to develop our approach to this, we propose to take a number of steps. First, we are in the process of preparing an IVF handbook and brochure. Initial research on the brochure, IVF and related procedures has already been completed and additional information is being sought from the Fertility Society of Australia and from organisations with IVF and related programs, to provide written material to people who are considering going into an IVF program. We will be holding an IVF seminar in Darwin. That is set tentatively for April of this year. That seminar will debate the matter and explain some of the basic issues surrounding the subject in a move towards the development of understanding within the IVF support group community in the Northern Territory. The brochure and handbook will provide a mechanism to enable people to become aware of what is occurring in IVF, the sort of issues involved in making the choice to go into IVF or not, and whether to look at other options that might be available to a family seeking to have children. We are forming a ministerial advisory committee on reproductive technology. That will follow on from the IVF conference. It will advise on alternative procedures that can be developed on the whole range of reproductive technology and will look at the cost of those programs. The cost of the handbook, the seminar and the development of the advisory committee should be in the order of \$30 000.

Further, we are engaging in a pilot study in the form of an Infertility Clinic at Royal Darwin Hospital. The Infertility Clinic will assess both male and female partners to identify the cause of infertility and determine whether the problem can be managed locally. It will identify the percentage of couples requiring assistance from GIFT or IVF programs and will evaluate the numbers requiring IVF assistance. It is intended that the experience of

the Infertility Clinic will give a realistic indication of demand for the IVF service and other reproductive medical techniques in the Northern Territory. The cost of operating the clinic during the next 6 months is estimated to be in the order of \$70 000. This assessment will enable the government to decide whether it is prepared to establish a commercially-viable IVF program in Darwin. The Darwin Private Hospital has been involved in negotiations during the last several months to determine whether it wishes to participate in or develop an IVF program in Darwin or, alternatively, to determine whether some of the preliminary procedures associated with IVF could be carried out in Darwin with programs to be completed at approved clinics interstate.

Importantly, such initiatives would reduce dramatically the time for which women would have to be away from Darwin, thus splitting up the family and causing disruptions. Sometimes, these procedures involve spending several months away from home ...

Mr Collins: Alice Springs?

Mr HATTON: Alice Springs as well. If we could have such a service in Darwin, obviously Alice Springs people would have access to it and would receive PATS assistance. I know that would mean travelling away from home, but we cannot have such a service in every town in the Territory.

Mr Collins: Fair enough.

Mr HATTON: We will be lucky to have 1 in the Territory.

Indeed, it may be more appropriate to provide PATS assistance for people to go through the process interstate. The research will identify the most appropriate and cost-effective method of providing assistance to people to enable them to make an informed choice after being properly counselled and made aware of the implications of any decisions which they may take. It will determine whether, following those decisions, there is an appropriate and cost-effective method of introducing IVF facilities to the Territory.

I do not need to outline to honourable members the significant moral and legal questions which inevitably arise in relation to some reproductive technology matters. Suffice it to say that the medical technology is available and that some people are demanding access to IVF services. I do not believe that it is appropriate for the government to adopt a particular moral stance in relation to the accessibility of such services, which are provided generally in the major cities of Australia.

Mr Ede: What about the people who are demanding appropriate and very basic health services out in the rural areas?

Mr HATTON: Mr Speaker, we will be dealing with those matters later.

Mr Ede: Later! So we will get the ice-cream first and the main course later.

Mr HATTON: You have a matter on the Notice Paper and we will debate it fully today. I look forward to that debate with glee. It is about time that some of the nonsense promoted by opponents of the public health system was dealt with. People need to know exactly what is going on and more about the excellent services they are receiving from the Northern Territory Department of Health and Community Services. I look forward to that debate with glee.

Mr Speaker, the legal aspects of establishing an IVF service must be examined. Initially, enabling legislation would be required to establish an IVF program. However, it would be preferable to seek advice from the Department of Law on the legal implications and related issues if a local IVF program is to occur. These issues would include the maternity and paternity of IVF children. That needs to be legally determined. In the interstate situations in which it has not been dealt with, complicated legal consequences have arisen. States such as Western Australia have been forced to introduce specific legislation to deal with that. Other issues include the ownership and control of human reproductive tissue, the regulation of IVF practices and research, and the common law status of the human embryo in the IVF process.

In that process, new Northern Territory legislation may be required, not dissimilar to the Infertility Medical Services Amendment Act of Victoria or the Reproductive Technology Act of South Australia. Non-legislative means could be used to regulate the practice of IVF until related comprehensive legislation can be enacted. Importantly, we will be researching the legal implications in advance of taking any decisions.

That is the program which we will be adopting during the next 6 months to develop a clearly defined strategy and approach to this important issue for women. I might say that it is important not only to non-Aboriginal women. There is significant interest in these programs among Aboriginal women throughout the Northern Territory. In the meantime, we are very conscious of the fact that a number of Territory women are on programs interstate or seeking to become involved in interstate programs, and that time is vitally important for them because of age and other factors.

We have changed the policy on the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme in the intervening period so that those women who otherwise could not obtain access to PATS to go interstate for IVF will now have access to that assistance. There are a number of limitations on that which relate to the person seeking to have a first child, their obtaining appropriate counselling and having the appropriate specialist gynaecological support indicating that the program is appropriate for them. I am pleased that we have something under way finally to deal with this emotive and important issue for women. Women are no longer frozen out from access to important medical technology which may assist them to have a child. In 6 months time, there will be a complete review and the final decision will be made in respect of the long-term direction.

#### Palmerston Darwin Bus Services

Mr SETTER to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I understand that recently the minister received a petition from residents of Palmerston requesting that Buslink take over the Palmerston/Darwin bus routes from the Darwin Bus Service. What is the minister's approach to the possible privatisation of those routes?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I received a petition bearing the signatures of 560 residents of Palmerston which were collected within 2 days of the last wildcat strike by the Darwin Bus Service. I have had considerable representation from the member for Palmerston himself who shows a interest in trying to improve the bus services throughout the whole of the Northern Territory, but particularly in his area. The bus service is always keen to

pursue measures which might improve its efficiency. We have come a long way in the last 5 years. The level of underwriting by the taxpayer of the public transport system has improved. The service has improved in terms of the delivery of service.

The recent wildcat strike left pensioners, students and other passengers stranded. With Buslink still running, they could get from the suburbs to the interchange but, unless they wanted to go down to another suburb or keep travelling in circles, that was as far as they could go. I called it a 'wildcat strike' deliberately. It was one of those situations in which not even their own union could talk sense into the renegade drivers who raised the issue of running times, which I believe was a furphy.

I can report to honourable members that, following some agreed procedures on how we time the runs, there has been an assessment of some 122 runs. As we said from the start, if we find that any run requires additional time, we will implement that additional time. Of the 122 runs, we found that 9 runs require a small additional amount of running time. We found also that 42 runs required less running time. It has been a very worthwhile exercise which will lead to further efficiencies in the Darwin Bus Service runs.

There is a bit of a rumble in the streets at the moment, I understand, for the 5-minute normal buffer allowance, the safety margin between running times, to be extended to 10 minutes. That is not on and is quite outside the spirit of the agreement entered into with the Industrial Relations Commission when determining appropriate running times.

Certainly, we will look seriously at the request by Palmerston residents. The residents have identified a number of attractions such as familiarity with drivers and the same bus possibly running from the suburb through the interchange and out. Whilst on the subject of the interchange, I mention that we will be proceeding very soon to build a brand new \$950 000 interchange at Palmerston. That will help to improve circumstances for Palmerston travellers.

In addition to those matters that the residents themselves have raised - and the bus service will consider those - there are some other issues. We now have some 51 runs which will require rescheduling, and we will have to go through the massive exercise of rescheduling all the runs undertaken by Darwin Bus Service. Thus, it is an appropriate time for us to look at whether we should be further utilising the Buslink services. Over the next 2 years, some 10 new buses are to be purchased at a cost of \$2m. The government will take this appropriate opportunity, through its bus service, to assess whether it should comply with the request of Palmerston residents. On the surface, whilst we need to look at operating costs, there does seem to be a fair bit of merit in the proposal for the residents and for the further efficiency of the bus service.

#### Darwin Police Cells

Mr TIPILOURA to CHIEF MINISTER

The Chief Minister has decided to reopen the city lock-up following complaints from the shopkeepers in the Mall. As the Chief Minister knows, the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody strongly recommends that intoxicated Aboriginal people should not be locked up. Will he make it clear to the police that the lock-up should not be used as a detention centre for intoxicated Aboriginal people?



ANSWER

Mr Speaker, from recollection, the proposal by the police to use the old police cells in the Darwin central business district, when they move in a few months time to the building that they occupied formerly, involves holding for reasonably short periods of time those persons who are taken into custody, for whatever reason, before they are transferred to Berrimah. I do not know what 'reasonably short periods' means. No doubt, that would be determined by the dictates of the day and manning etc.

I can assure the honourable member that the Northern Territory has come through the Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Inquiry to date with a good record. In fact, in some respects, we far exceed the record of the states. The Commissioner of Police is certainly very interested personally in and involved in changing procedures, wherever possible, to minimise the chances of persons killing themselves or being injured in any way whilst in police custody. To that end, we are examining the possibility of improvements in cell design and in video monitoring of persons held in cells. We are examining options such as having non-police carry out the task of monitoring prisoners in cells so that trained police are not simply engaged in watching cells but are fulfilling the role that the community expects of them. I can assure the honourable member that the cells in the CBD will be used with due care. The police in the Territory will fully accept their responsibility in regard to the findings of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

Allegations Relating to Education System on Groote Eylandt

Mr PALMER to MINISTER for EDUCATION

On Monday night and again last night, the ABC 7.30 Report presented evidence to support allegations made by the General Secretary of the Northern Territory Teachers Federation that some sort of 'old boys' network conspiracy existed on Groote Eylandt. Does the minister believe that the letters and beer coasters presented by that program warrant the supposed outrage displayed by that program's presenters?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the issue in relation to Groote Eylandt has been discussed in detail. However, there are 2 matters that need to be presented fairly and which were not presented fairly. I need to clarify those matters in this forum. I indicated to honourable members yesterday that we had provided documentation to the 7.30 Report which made it clear that there were people who were satisfied with the operations of the department and how it had proceeded. We indicated yesterday, prior to a program, that there was concern about a certain beer coaster to which the honourable member has just referred.

First, I will deal with the text of a file note from Ian Cluney which was presented on that program. The presenters should check the facts. That appeared on the program because the school council chairman had asked Ian Cluney, who had attended a meeting on Groote Eylandt, what had been the secretary's reaction to that report. What he had prepared in line with that request from the council chairman was expressed in the exact words that appeared in quotes and which were included in that file note. The line at the bottom - which reads 'I trust that this meets with your requirements' and was said to savour of an 'old boys club' comment - related purely to the

fact that the chairman had requested the information and the information was provided in response to that request. That is a point that needs to be made.

The second matter related to bills for money being written on the back of beer coasters. That allegation was correct, but let us not present only half of the facts. Let us not present only the beer coaster. Let us look at how that came about and what was written above that on the page. Mr Speaker, I will table that document for the interest of honourable members.

The Principal of the Alyangula Area School, Mr Peter Clark, wrote such a bill to the local Lions Club after it was agreed that the club would support the school by providing dental hygiene equipment for the students. The bill was written on a coaster, on the spot so to speak, and was presented to the meeting of the Lions Club shortly after that agreement was reached, and the club approved payment and drew a cheque at that meeting. Rather than finding that method of invoicing offensive, the Lions Club found it sufficiently novel and noteworthy to include the story and a copy of the invoice in the next issue of the Lions Combined District Newsletter.

Members interjecting.

Mr HARRIS: All I am saying is that all the facts must be presented. Do not omit sections. The words at the top of that page, relating to the beer coaster, which was in fact a bill, read as follows: 'Can you top this? The friendly little club on Groote Eylandt received a bill for a project' - and this is from the Lions Combined District Newsletter - 'which we support to put a toothbrush in the hands of every schoolchild. The bill was written on the back of a coaster down at the golf club, handed to one of our members, presented that night at our business meeting, a cheque drawn and delivered the next day'. That was for the benefit of the children at that school even though the way it was presented was wrong.

Over the last couple of days, I have urged that those involved in preparing and presenting programs, which will have an impact on the public, need to present the facts fairly and in a professional manner. I am not saying that aggressive reporting should be stopped. In fact, I have supported that. Some of us do become aggressive at times, and I am not precluded from that as honourable members would be aware. In fact, yesterday I terminated an interview with a reporter from the 7.30 Report because I was annoyed by his approach and his attitude in relation to questioning.

Mr Vale: What did he say to you?

Mr HARRIS: A comment was made by that reporter as I left. The exact words, as witnessed by a number of people were: 'You are dead tonight'. That leaves a lot to be desired in so far as a professional approach is concerned.

Harry Giese Early Intervention Unit

Mr BAILEY to MINISTER for HEALTH and COMMUNITY SERVICES

Is the minister aware of an industrial relations conflict within the Harry Giese Centre Early Intervention Unit? As it receives significant grants-in-aid funding from his department, will the minister examine the detail of the current dispute to see if conditions for grants-in-aid are being fulfilled and, whether or not that is the case, will the minister use

his influence to try to settle this dispute as soon as possible so as to minimise any possible disruption to the very important programs for the children at that centre?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this morning, I became aware of an impending industrial dispute at the Harry Giese Early Intervention Unit. I compliment the honourable member, who took it up as the local member, and I thank him for asking the question. People need to understand that our relationship with organisations such as Carpentaria, which operates the Harry Giese Centre, is one of a funding organisation providing an arrangement through a grant-in-aid for the provision of specific services to the community. We are providing financial support to independent, community organisations to provide services the availability of which we believe to be important to the community. It is not an employer/employee relationship. Our position is very much that of a funding organisation. Therefore, our responsibilities are to ensure that the centre is meeting any conditions associated with the grant-in-aid and those include the provision of services and any other rules that may apply. In this instance, I would be surprised if that did not include a provision that any employees would be paid appropriately under the relevant awards or industrial determinations that refer to their employment.

In so far as the department's contractual arrangements with the organisation are concerned, we will check to confirm those arrangements. However, if there are industrial problems that go outside of that arrangement, it would be appropriate for the relevant trade union involved to be advised and, more particularly, that matter should be referred to the Department of Industrial Relations if there are any award breaches or otherwise.

Certainly, to the extent that it is appropriate and proper for our department to intervene, without cutting across the rights of the organisation or the employees involved, we will ensure that, in terms of our obligations, the matter is properly dealt with. I urge the people involved not to go to the stage of open industrial conflict, but rather to seek an opportunity to negotiate appropriate settlements and to use the relevant facilities of their own organisations or of the Department of Industrial Relations or, if necessary, to consult the Industrial Relations Commission on a process by which to resolve the dispute so that the people who are being serviced by the organisation do not suffer as a consequence. I will investigate the matter. I will not go further than is properly my responsibility, but I will go that far.

Supreme Court Sentences

Mr FLOREANI to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

The Attorney-General has received a letter from a number of Alice Springs citizens concerning recent judgments handed down by the Northern Territory Supreme Court, where the presiding judge has given short non-parole sentences to persons convicted of serious offences. The letter calls for a much tougher stand by the courts: tougher penalties, longer non-parole periods and the introduction of minimum sentencing provisions. Can the Attorney-General advise what he intends to do about the concerns expressed in the letter?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, unfortunately I have not received the letter. However, I am certainly well aware of the existence of such concerns. They have been expressed by members of this House. The member for Araluen has been most vocal in bringing the concerns of the community to my attention. I hope that the member for Flynn is not under the impression, in any shape or form, that I have any responsibility for influencing judges or sentences handed down in our courts. I hope that he does not suggest that, at any stage, any parliamentarian should ever be in a position to carry out such a role. Recent references have been made to sentences which can be imposed for offences such as rape, which carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. The question of minimum sentences obviously needs to be looked at by this House. I made it very clear last year that we are reviewing sentencing and I hope to be in a position, as I said earlier during these sittings, to present legislation on sentencing at the next sittings.

The media enables people in the community to put forcefully any concerns which they may have in relation to what they may perceive as leniency in sentencing. The legal system allows also for appeals in situations in which the prosecution or the Attorney-General have particular concerns. In many circumstances, such appeals are lodged. Unfortunately, the results of those appeals often do not receive the sort of publicity that the original sentences received. When sentences are doubled or tripled as a result of appeals, they do not seem to attract the same sort of attention. The same applies in many cases in which severe sentences are handed down. Unfortunately, reporting of these cases is not such as would create some balance in the community's perception of what is occurring.

I certainly have personal concerns that sentences sometimes appear not to be as tough as they should be. I believe that crimes of violence deserve punishment. I might be alone in that view, but it is one that I hold. I do not mind stating it very clearly. I believe that, especially in relation to crimes of violence, offenders should receive some punishment by way of sentencing. I am certainly aware of the issue raised by the honourable member. It will be brought to the attention of the House at the next sittings and all members will have an opportunity to participate in debate in relation to sentencing and legal provisions pertaining to sentencing options.

ANSWER TO QUESTION  
Alice Springs Bus Service

Mr FINCH (Transport and Works): Mr Speaker, during last Thursday's adjournment debate, the member for MacDonnell raised a question relating to the Alice Springs Bus Service and student concessions. I would like to give him a brief answer. The advice which the honourable member received from the Mayor of Alice Springs was incorrect. The basic agreement involving the Alice Springs Bus Service and the Northern Territory government is such that the service must provide the same fare structure as applies for the Darwin Bus Service. There are 5 separate student-type classifications, which I will briefly outline for the honourable member.

Firstly, a free travel pass is issued to all school students who meet eligibility criteria laid down by the Department of Education. Such a pass covers travel between 6 am and 6 pm on school days. Reimbursement for that function is provided by the Department of Education, and that is the only funding provided by that department. The bus service itself provides funds

to assist those students who are ineligible for normal student passes. It provides a student term ticket for \$25, which entitles such students to unlimited travel at all times during the day. Other students, who are ineligible under the first classification, can obtain a concessional rate of 30¢ if they wish to travel between 6 am and 6 pm on school days. Secondary students with proof of status can travel for half adult fare outside that 6 am to 6 pm period. Tertiary students with proof of status can travel for half adult fare at all times.

ASBUS will be meeting early next month and the question of fares will be clarified. As the underwriter of the operating cost for the bus service, the government expected that it would run on the same fare structure as that in Darwin, including concessional rates. That advice will be delivered to ASBUS so that it can restructure. As I mentioned, whilst the level of anticipated underwriting has risen for other reasons, the fare criteria must be met.

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