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## 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.

**NOTICE GIVEN ON 4 June 1985**

**10. Freight and Related Costs Inquiry**

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. What action has been taken by the government on part 1 of the report of the Inquiry into Freight and Related Costs which was tabled on 1 March 1984?
2. What further action is being considered?
3. What action has been taken or is being considered in respect of part 2 of the report of that Inquiry which was tabled on 30 August 1984?

**NOTICE GIVEN ON 20 August 1985**

**14. Overseas Visits by Officeholders**

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Since 1 January 1984, how many trips, financed by the government, have been taken outside Australia by officeholding Members of the Legislative Assembly?
2. In respect of each of those trips - (a) which Member was involved; (b) by whom was the Member accompanied; (c) when and where did the Member go; and (d) what was the total cost of the trip to the government?
3. In respect of each of the financial years 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85, what amounts were paid out to each officeholding Member of the Assembly for travelling allowance including full details covering total payouts and any subsequent reimbursements from Members?

**19. Court Proceedings - Northern Territory Government**

Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

1. Since self-government, in what proceedings has the Northern Territory Government been involved before either the High Court or the Federal Court?
2. In respect of each proceedings, what was the cost to the government?

**NOTICE GIVEN ON 12 November 1985**

**28. Caravan Park Surveys**

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HOUSING

1. Does the Northern Territory Housing Commission or any other Northern Territory government department or authority survey caravan parks to determine - (a) rates charged for vans and for sites; (b) whether residents are long term tenants or tourists; (c) if caravan dwellers live in them by choice or because they are unable to obtain permanent housing; and (d) the proportion of caravan park dwellers listed with the Northern Territory Housing Commission?
2. If such surveys are carried out, will the Minister table - (a) the raw data; and (b) reports thereon?

**31. Making of Publications**

Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many sets of material including, (a) the Chief Minister's Budget speech, (b) statement on the establishment of a University, (c) Northern Territory submission on the review of domestic aviation, (d) statement on the Alice Springs to Darwin railway; (e) statement on Government commitment to tourist development projects; and (f) statement on Constitutional Development, were sent out by the Chief Minister in late August and early September?
2. How much did it cost to prepare, produce and mail out this material?

**32. Peko Goldmine**

Mr EDE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. At the Peko Wallsend Goldmine at Warrego during the period from October 1981 to June 1985 -
  - a. what tests for mercury levels in blood urine or the atmosphere have been carried out by government instrumentalities on people who are, or have been, working in the Warrego gold rooms or the gold room, apart from those tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 28 August 1985;
  - b. what were the results of these tests; and
  - c. when were the results of those tests supplied to the Department of Mines and Energy and what action did the Department take as a result?

2. Tests carried out by the Department of Mines and Energy on 29 October 1981 showed mercury vapour levels varying between 3 and 11 times those set by the National Health and Medical Research Centre. Were any further tests, comparable with the National Health and Medical Research Centre Threshold Limit Values carried out -
  - a. when the furnace was operating between 29 October 1981 and September 1984; and
  - b. what were the results of those tests?
3. Were any tests carried out by Peko Wallsend or any other non government instrumentalities between October 1981 and July 1985 -
  - a. supplied to the Department of Mines and Energy; and, if so,
  - b. when were the tests carried out; and
  - c. what were the results?
4. The District Inspector at Tennant Creek was transferred on 18 October 1981, six days after he had notified the Chief Government Mining Engineer of a suspected mercury poisoning case, why was he not replaced until May 1984?
5. Given that tests carried out by Department of Mines and Energy on 27 October 1984 produced results 3 to 6 times the NHRMC Threshold Limit Values, (a) were any further tests carried out between that date and 7 June 1985; (b) what were the tests; (c) when and what were the test results; and (d) if no tests were made, why?
6. Given the report by the Chief Occupational Hygienist in December 1982 stating that following a visit to Warrego, he "rang the manager at Warrego at 1330 hours to inform him of the test results" and was informed that "both men had been removed from the gold room", specifically, (a) what tests were being referred to, when were they carried out and what were the results; (b) have either of the men been subsequently re-employed in the gold room and, if so, what special testing arrangements have been put in place to ensure their good health; and (c) what tests or inspections were carried out by the Department of Mines and Energy staff or government instrumentalities between the removal of these men from the gold room and late 1984?
7. Given that the December 1982 results led to the removal of two men from the gold room and that the correspondence and Mine Record Book shows no specific reference to the gold room and mercury levels there from that date to July 1984, what action was taken by departmental officers in relation to mercury levels during that period?

**33. Myilly Point Housing**

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HOUSING

1. What are the policy details and arrangements for the allocation of public housing in the Myilly Point area?
2. In the Myilly Point area what are -
  - a. the number of Housing Commission houses in the area;
  - b. the names, positions and gradings of officers occupying these houses (if a constraint exists on releasing names and positions, a list of departments and gradings is requested);
  - c. the criteria for allocating these houses;
  - d. the levels of rent charged on each house; and
  - e. the changes that may have occurred in the allocation criteria since 1 January 1984?

**35. Tennant Creek/Barkly Highway Connector Road**

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS and HOUSING

What are the details of the proposed Tennant Creek/Barkly Highway connector road, including -

- a. the length of the proposed connector road;
- b. the number of kilometres by which it will reduce the present Tennant Creek/Mount Isa road journey;
- c. whether it is proposed to seal the road now or in the future;
- d. when work will commence on the road; and
- e. will construction of the proposed connector road lead to a reduced commitment to maintain the existing Three Ways/Barkly Highway strip of road?

**45. Credit Cards**

Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What are the criteria for determining which public servants and Ministerial officers are eligible to receive credit cards for use in charging official expenses?

2. How many - (a) public servants; and (b) Ministerial officers, currently have credit cards issued by the Government?
3. What guidelines are given to public servants and Ministerial officers on - (a) the type of expenses; and (b) the limit of expenses, that can be incurred on Government supplied credit cards?
4. In the 1984-85 financial year, what was the total amount of money paid out to meet credit card accounts held by - (a) public servants; and (b) Ministerial officers?

**46. Crown Land, Borroloola**

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS

In respect of the recent Notice of Determination under the Crown Lands Act gazetted on 16 October 1985 relating to Lots 423 and 410 and adjoining Crown Land at Borroloola - has the adjoining vacant Crown Land been valued by the Valuer-General; if so, at what figure was the land valued? Were tenders called for the acquisition/purchase of the adjoining Crown Land; if so, give details.

**47. Mereenie and Palm Valley Gas Project**

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What is the total amount of gas contracted for by NTEC from both the Palm Valley Joint Venture and the Mereenie Joint Venture?
2. What are the currently estimated NTEC 'most probable' gas requirements on a year by year basis from the first contractual year to the twentieth contractual year?
3. Are any 'take or pay' obligations based on annual contractual amounts or any periods less than the total contract period?
4. What are the details of how 'take or pay' obligations relate to each period and the arrangements, if any, for contracted gas to remain in inventory?
5. If arrangements exist to hold contracted gas in inventory, what conditions apply to the cost of this gas and conditions on its subsequent uplift?
6. What are the estimated load growths for electricity generated by gas on an annual basis during the period of contracted supply from the Mereenie and Palm Valley Joint Ventures?

7. Do these estimated load growths relate directly to estimated 'most probable' gas requirements or are proposed changes to electricity generation techniques expected to change the impact on the estimated annual 'most probable' gas requirements?
8. What are the details of - (a) the proposed pricing mechanism for direct use of gas; and (b) the price of gas from the two joint ventures and escalation arrangements?
9. What are the precise details of price applications to take or pay obligations which are left in inventory?
10. What are the details, including letters, advertisements and seminars, of off-set procedures for the pipeline construction?
11. What are the current estimates of - (a) the effectiveness of arrangements for off-sets (including dollar estimates of contracts to local firms); and (b) expected total off-set arrangements for local firms (including dollar amounts) during the life of the pipeline constructions?

**48. School Bus Fares**

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. What were the guidelines issued to school principals prior to the introduction of school bus fares under which principals were to determine individual cases of hardship in order to grant exemption from payment of the fares?
2. Since the introduction of the bus fare system, have these guidelines been amended; if so, what are the details?
3. What amount of money does the government estimate will be raised by the imposition of bus fares - (a) to the end of the 1985 school year; and (b) for the 1986 school year?

**49. Conversion of Pastoral Leases**

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS

1. How many applications have been made since 1 January 1983 for conversion of pastoral leases to perpetual pastoral leases?
2. What properties/leases were involved in these applications and which were successful?
3. In respect of each perpetual pastoral lease granted, what conditions/covenants are attached in respect of - (a) minimum stocking levels; (b) Maximum stocking levels; (c) clearing of

land; (d) fencing; (e) measures in respect of river bank erosion; and (f) restrictions on land use?



FROM 16 April 1985

**3. King's Canyon Development**

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

In his press release of 20 February 1985 he said, in relation to the proposed tourist resort development at King's Canyon, that the Northern Territory government would "ensure that there is no repeat of Yulara where infrastructure for Aboriginals was promised by the Commonwealth but not provided".

To what infrastructure is he referring?

**ANSWER**

The proposed Yulara Village Development Plan of December 1978 prepared by a Commonwealth Interdepartmental Planning Team, advised that the Department of Aboriginal Affairs indicated "that possibly 60-70 Aborigines may ultimately wish to locate in or adjacent to the village and that a number of fairly extensive sites within about 1 km of the village centre should be identified for Aboriginal use."

The Aboriginal housing facilities provided at Yulara were built by the Yulara Development Company, with eight houses completed in October 1983 and a further two houses in January 1985. Those first eight houses were funded by the Northern Territory Government from funds that could have been used to meet other Aboriginal housing priority needs elsewhere in the Territory.

By comparison, the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service has only provided five houses for the Aboriginal Community within Uluru National Park. I am advised that the Aboriginal Community at Ayers Rock have requested at least ten further houses. I am not aware that the Commonwealth has made any firm arrangements for meeting these housing needs in a manner consistent with the need to protect ongoing park values.

**6. Grants-in-Aid, Sporting Bodies**

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

How much money has been given to sporting organisations over the last five years under the Grants-in-Aid scheme in (a) Nhulunbuy; (b) Katherine; (c) Tennant Creek; (d) Alice Springs; and (e) Darwin?

**ANSWER**

See table on following page.

ATTACHMENT TO QUESTION ON NOTICE NO.6

Region	1979/80	1980/81	1981/82	1982/83	1983/84	1984/85	Total
Northern Territory (1)	130 906	137 302	210 036	383 511	602 608	761 278	2 225 641
Darwin	200 288	607 339	849 843	125 893	858 694	461 774	3 103 831
Katherine	62 700	-	11 267	20 700	37 578	2 090	134 335
Tennant Creek	16 150	-	25 779	13 036	24 800	81 470	161 235
Alice Springs	58 250	26 160	137 116	55 022	523 023	93 835 (2)	893 406
Nhulunbuy	25 995	18 000	33 483	26 161	57 640	6 841 (3)	168 120
TOTAL	494 289	788 801	1 267 524	624 323	2 104 343	1 407 288	6 686 568

IN ADDITION APPROXIMATELY \$1 975 000 HAS BEEN PROVIDED UNDER THE ABORIGINAL PROGRAM DURING THAT PERIOD.

- (1) THESE FIGURES REPRESENT GRANTS FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS, INCLUDING TRAVEL TO INTERSTATE AND INTRASTATE CHAMPIONSHIPS, AS WELL AS ASSISTANCE WITH THE EMPLOYMENT OF STATE COACHING DIRECTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS WHICH BENEFITS ALL REGIONS.
- (2) AN ADDITIONAL \$587 000 WAS GIVEN TO THE ALICE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL FOR SPORTING DEVELOPMENTS.
- (3) AN ADDITIONAL \$40 000 WAS GIVEN FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE NHULUNBUY TOWN OVAL AMENITIES.

**8. Land holdings, Myilly Point**

1. What are the details of the arrangements made with the Paspaley family and associated companies for the acquisition of their land holdings within the area of the proposed casino-condominium complex at Myilly Point?
2. What alternative land has been offered as part of those arrangements?
3. Have arrangements been made or are they being negotiated with other land holders within that area; and, if so, what are the details?

**ANSWER**

The Northern Territory Government has been negotiating with the members of the Paspaley family, Mr Tony Randazzo, the Westpac Banking Corporation, the Anglican Church, the Commonwealth Government and the Northern Territory Housing Commission over the acquisition of the properties owned by these parties on Myilly Point.

The Housing Commission has agreed to relinquish its properties and is arranging the relocation of its tenants from the area. The Commonwealth has agreed in principle to the proposed purchase of its land by the Territory. Negotiations to finalise the purchase are continuing but may be prejudiced by detailed comment at this time.

Dealings with the remaining parties involve the finances of private individuals and companies and must be accorded all due confidentiality. I am not prepared to breach that confidence other than to advise that negotiations have been completed with the Paspaley family members and the Anglican Church and are continuing with other parties.

**9. Travel outside Territory by Members**

Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Since the beginning of 1984, how many trips, financed by the government, have been taken outside the Territory by non-office holding Members of the Legislative Assembly?
2. In respect of each of those trips - (a) which Member was involved; (b) what was the reason for the trip; (c) where did the Member go; and (d) what was the total cost?

**ANSWER**

See tables on following 16 pages.

TRAVEL BY NON-OFFICE HOLDING MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
(OUTSIDE THE N.T.) 1 JANUARY 1984 TO 31 MAY 1985  
PROCESSED THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF THE CHIEF MINISTER

NAME	PURPOSE	DESTINATION	DATES	TOTAL COST TO THIS DEPARTMENT \$
Mr Don Dale	To attend Advisory Council for Inter-Government Relations meeting on behalf of the Chief Minister.	Darwin, Melbourne, Hobart, Sydney, Return.	4/4/84 TO 11/4/84	2439
Mr Don Dale	To accompany the Chief Minister on official Government business.	Darwin, Perth, Adelaide Return.	13/5/84 TO 20/5/84	2203
Mr Don Dale	To attend Youth Minister's Conference on behalf of Hon. N Dondas.	Darwin, Sydney, Adelaide, Return.	27/6/84 TO 2/7/84	2112
Mr Don Dale	Attending tourism promotion meeting as the Chief Minister's Nominee.	Darwin, Perth, Adelaide, Return	15/9/84 TO 26/9/84	2995
Mr Don Dale	Attending racing Minister's conference with Hon. M Perron	Darwin, Adelaide, Return.	8/11/84 TO 14/11/84	1678
Mr Don Dale	Part of delegation to assist Minister responsible (Hon. M Perron) at State and Territories Racing Minister's Conference.	Darwin, Adelaide, Hobart, Adelaide, Return.	5/2/85 TO 9/2/85	1939

TRAVEL BY NON-OFFICE HOLDING MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
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NAME	PURPOSE	DESTINATION	DATES	TOTAL COST TO THIS DEPARTMENT \$
Mr Don Dale	Travel on behalf of the Minister (Hon. J Robertson) to gather facts for the establishment of a State Theatre Company.	Darwin, Sydney, Brisbane, Townsville Cairns, Return	15/3/85 TO 25/3/85	2430
Mr Don Dale	Travel on behalf of the Minister (Hon. J Robertson) to gather facts for the establishment of a State Theatre Company. (29.3.85 to 4.4.85) Attendance at Ministerial Conference with Hon B. Coulter (5.4.85 to 9.4.85)	Darwin, Alice Springs Perth, Adelaide, Return.	29/3/85 TO 9/4/85	3176

TRAVEL BY NON-OFFICE HOLDING MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
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NAME	PURPOSE	DESTINATION	DATES	TOTAL COST TO THIS DEPARTMENT \$
Mr Terry McCarthy	To accompany the Chief Minister	Darwin, Canberra, Sydney, Return.	21/2/85 TO 23/2/85	1510
Mr Terry McCarthy	Representing Minister for Primary Production at special meeting of Australian Agricultural Council.	Darwin, Sydney, Canberra, Return.	21/3/85 TO 23/3/85	1442

TRAVEL BY NON-OFFICE HOLDING MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
(OUTSIDE THE N.T.) 1 JANUARY 1984 TO 31 MAY 1985  
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NAME	PURPOSE	DESTINATION	DATES	TOTAL COST TO THIS DEPARTMENT \$
Mr Terry Smith	To conduct interviews for the position of Ombudsman for the Northern Territory.	Darwin, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, Return.	27/6/84 TO 30/6/84	2015
Mr Terry Smith	Official Business.	Darwin, Broome, Return.	29/9/84 TO 2/10/84	876

TRAVEL BY NON-OFFICE HOLDING MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
(OUTSIDE THE N.T.) 1 JANUARY 1984 TO 31 MAY 1985  
PROCESSED THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF THE CHIEF MINISTER

NAME	PURPOSE	DESTINATION	DATES	TOTAL COST TO THIS DEPARTMENT \$
Mr Roger Vale	To represent the Minister for Mines and Energy at the opening of the Jackson Project.	Alice Springs, Adelaide, Jackson, Brisbane, Return.	30/5/84 TO 1/6/84	725 Mr Vale utilised a shared charter organised by the Moonie Oil Co Ltd
Mr Roger Vale	Represent the Northern Territory at State Funeral for late Sir Philip Lynch.	Alice Springs, Melbourne, Return.	21/6/84 TO 23/6/84	1097
Mr Roger Vale	To accompany the Central Australian Football League touring part as representative of the Northern Territory.	Alice Springs, Perth Return.	11/7/84	549 One way fare to Perth only paid by the Dept. of C.M.
Mr Roger Vale	To accompany Hon. I Tuxworth on "show and tell" promotion with oil industry in Sydney.	Alice Springs, Sydney Return	13/9/84 TO 16/9/84	1258
Mr Roger Vale	To represent Hon. I Tuxworth at the Australian Institute of Petroleum Conference.	Alice Springs, Melbourne, Return.	18/9/84 TO 20/9/84	1187



TRAVEL BY NON-OFFICE HOLDING MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
(OUTSIDE THE N.T.) 1 JANUARY 1984 TO 31 MAY 1985  
PROCESSED THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF THE CHIEF MINISTER

NAME	PURPOSE	DESTINATION	DATES	TOTAL COST TO THIS DEPARTMENT \$
Mr Roger Vale	Represent Chief Minister at F.I.D.O. meeting in Bourke, N.S.W.	Alice Springs, Sydney, Dubbo, Bourke, Return.	3/10/84 TO 7/10/84	1434
Mr Roger Vale	Represent Minister for Primary Production (former) at export camel farewell Public relations.	Alice Springs, Adelaide, Alice Springs, Return.	27/12/84 TO 29/12/84	939
Mr Roger Vale	Represent Hon. N Dondas to travel by road from Alice Springs to Adelaide viewing aspects of Tourism.	Alice Springs, Adelaide Alice Springs, Return.	10/3/85 TO 15/3/85	1392
Mr Roger Vale	Visit oil refinery at Kueinana, look at design and lead free petrol production, meet companies involved in supply, construction, and use of gas and oil pipelines. Visit juvenile centre for young offenders re N.T. Task Force Inquiry into Juvenile Crime.	Alice Springs, Perth, Return.	5/5/85 8/5/85	1182

TRAVEL BY NON-OFFICE HOLDING MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
(OUTSIDE THE N.T.) 1 JANUARY 1984 TO 31 MAY 1985  
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NAME	PURPOSE	DESTINATION	DATES	TOTAL COST TO THIS DEPARTMENT \$
Mr Colin Firmin	To conduct interviews for the position of Ombudsman for the Northern Territory	Darwin, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne Return.	27/6/84 TO 28/6/84	1654
Mr Colin Firmin	To attend the presentation ceremony of the International Yacht Race in Ambon.	Darwin, Ambon, Return	9/8/84 TO 14/8/84	1050
Mr Colin Firmin	Represent the Minister at Northern Australian Development Seminary.	Darwin, Brisbane, Mackay, Return.	23/10/84 TO 29/10/84	2099
Mr Colin Firmin	National Enterprise Workshop (Adelaide) United States Trade Exhibit/High Technology Department-Science and Technology Sydney.	Darwin, Adelaide, Sydney, Return.	12/11/84 TO 17/11/84	2345
Mr Colin Firmin	Queensland Satellite Service Inquiry in Brisbane 30.1.85. Preliminary Hearing of R.C.T.S. Inquiry in Sydney 1.2.85	Darwin, Brisbane, Sydney Adelaide, Return.	28/1/85 TO 5/2/85	2576

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NAME	PURPOSE	DESTINATION	DATES	TOTAL COST TO THIS DEPARTMENT \$
Mr Colin Firmin	Australian Broadcasting Tribunal Hearings - Sydney. Canberra-Royal Flying Doctor service on Satellites.	Darwin, Sydney, Canberra, Return.	18/3/85 TO 29/3/85	3027
Mr Colin Firmin	Federal Department of Communications briefing.	Darwin, Melbourne, Canberra Return.	17/4/85 TO 20/4/85	1802

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NAME	PURPOSE	DESTINATION	DATES	TOTAL COST TO THIS DEPARTMENT \$
Mr Fred Finch	Representing the Minister for Transport and Works at the Australian Water Resources Council meeting in Launceston.	Darwin, Sydney, Launceston, Return	9/5/84 TO 13/5/84	2070
Mr Fred Finch	To attend National Small Business Conference on behalf of the Chief Minister.	Darwin, Sydney, Return,	7/8/84 TO 12/8/84	1601
Mr Fred Finch	To represent the Attorney-General at a conference dealing with video censorship.	Darwin, Melbourne, Sydney, Return.	27/9/84 TO 29/9/84	1500
Mr Fred Finch	Travel to Brunei to represent the Government in association with the Chief Ministers Cup, then to Singapore to inspect industrial development and technological research projects.	Darwin, Brunei, Singapore, Return.	30/9/84 TO 4/10/84	2553
Mr Fred Finch	Representing the Minister for Transport and Works at the Australian Water and Waste association council and seminar.	Darwin, Adelaide, Sydney, Return.	20/11/84 TO 25/11/84	1914

TRAVEL BY NON-OFFICE HOLDING MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
(OUTSIDE THE N.T.) 1 JANUARY 1984 TO 31 MAY 1985  
PROCESSED THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF THE CHIEF MINISTER

NAME	PURPOSE	DESTINATION	DATES	TOTAL COST TO THIS DEPARTMENT \$
Mr Fred Finch	Travel on behalf of the Minister (Hon. J Robertson) to gather facts for the establishment of a State Theatre Company.	Darwin, Sydney, Brisbane, Townsville, Cairns, Return.	15/3/85 TO 27/3/85	2966
Mr Fred Finch	Travel on behalf of the Minister (Hon. J Robertson) to gather facts for the establishment of a State Theatre Company.	Darwin, Alice Springs, Perth, Adelaide, Return.	29/3/85 TO 4/4/85	2458
Mr Fred Finch	Attend advisory Council for Inter-Government Relations meeting in Melbourne.	Darwin, Melbourne, Return	30/5/85 TO 2/6/85	1679

TRAVEL BY NON-OFFICE HOLDING MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
(OUTSIDE THE N.T.) 1 JANUARY 1984 TO 31 MAY 1985  
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NAME	PURPOSE	DESTINATION	DATES	TOTAL COST TO THIS DEPARTMENT \$
Mr Barry Coulter	To accompany Minister for Primary Production to Thailand to look at their fishing industry.	Darwin, Thailand Return.	4/7/84 TO 10/7/84.	2927
Mr Barry Coulter	To inspect prawn culture hatcheries and grow out ponds in Taiwan.	Darwin, Hong Kong, Taipei, Kaoshiung, Singapore, Return.	9/9/84 TO 17/9/84	4062
Mr Barry Coulter	To attend standing committee meeting on Public Works on RAAF Housing at Chief Minister's request.	Darwin, Canberra, Sydney, Return.	7/10/84 TO 9/10/84	1436

TRAVEL BY NON-OFFICE HOLDING MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
(OUTSIDE THE N.T.) 1 JANUARY 1984 TO 31 MAY 1985  
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NAME	PURPOSE	DESTINATION	DATES	TOTAL COST TO THIS DEPARTMENT \$
Mr Steve Hatton	To accompany the Chief Minister overseas for the purpose of discussing matters relating to industrial development.	Darwin, United States of America, United Kingdom, France, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Return.	21/3/84 TO 22/4/84	7792
Mr Steve Hatton	To accompany the Acting Chief Minister Hon. N Dondas for the purpose of assessing future potential development and current relevant labour relations on Christmas Island.	Darwin, Perth, Christmas Island, Singapore, Return.	29/5/84 TO 2/6/84	1761
Mr Steve Hatton	To attend Advisory Council for Inter-Government Relations meeting. Surfers Paradise 2/8 - 3/8/84.	Darwin, Brisbane, Coolangatta, Return.	2/8/84 TO 4/8/84	1210
Mr Steve Hatton	To accompany Hon. I Tuxworth on "show and tell" promotion with oil industries in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth.	Darwin, Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Return.	9/9/84 TO 15/9/84	2716

TRAVEL BY NON-OFFICE HOLDING MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
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NAME	PURPOSE	DESTINATION	DATES	TOTAL COST TO THIS DEPARTMENT \$
Mr Steve Hatton	Travel with the Minister (Hon. J Robertson) to conduct meetings with Maritime Unions.	Darwin, Sydney, Return.	19/10/84 TO 27/10/84	2053
Mr Steve Hatton	As Territory Member, attend Advisory Council of Inter Government Relations meeting.	Darwin, Melbourne, Brisbane Return.	6/12/84 TO 8/12/84	1076
Mr Steve Hatton	To attend a A.C.P.I. Meeting.	Darwin, Melbourne, Return.	17/12/84 TO 19/12/84	1343



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NAME	PURPOSE	DESTINATION	DATES	TOTAL COST TO THIS DEPARTMENT \$
Mr Mike Palmer	Fact finding mission of fisheries marketing and development.	Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney, Return.	27/4/84 TO 6/5/84	3103
Mr Mike Palmer	At the request of the Chief Minister investigate the possibility of bringing the Fishing Industry to use Darwin as a base.	Darwin, Sydney, USA, London, Singapore, Return.	2/12/84 TO 24/12/84	7145
Mr Mike Palmer	Travel on behalf of the Minister (Hon. J Robertson) to gather facts for the establishment of a State Theatre Company.	Darwin, Sydney, Brisbane, Townsville, Cairns, Return.	14/3/85 TO 25/3/85	2555
Mr Mike Palmer	Travel on behalf of the Minister (Hon. J Robertson) to gather facts for the establishment of a State Theatre Company.	Darwin, Alice Springs, Perth, Adelaide, Return	29/3/85 TO 4/4/85	2284

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(OUTSIDE THE N.T.) 1 JANUARY 1984 TO 31 MAY 1985  
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NAME	PURPOSE	DESTINATION	DATES	TOTAL COST TO THIS DEPARTMENT \$
Mr Dennis Collins	Represent the Chief Minister at 1985 Australian/Japanese Relations Symposium.	Alice Springs, Sydney, Return	17/3/85 TO 21/3/85.	1372

TRAVEL BY NON-OFFICE HOLDING MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
(OUTSIDE THE N.T.) 1 JANUARY 1984 TO 31 MAY 1985  
PROCESSED THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF THE CHIEF MINISTER

NAME	PURPOSE	DESTINATION	DATES	TOTAL COST TO THIS DEPARTMENT \$
Mr R Hanrahan	To accompany the Chief Minister on official Government business.	Alice Springs, Perth, Adelaide, Return	13/5/84 TO 20/5/84	1046
Mr R Hanrahan	Official Government business at the request of the Chief Minister.	Alice Springs, Melbourne, Return.	22/5/84 TO 24/5/84	1037
Mr R Hanrahan	To accompany Hon. I Tuxworth on "show and tell" promotion with oil industries in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth	Alice Springs, Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Return.	9/9/84 TO 18/9/84	3349

**11. Gardens Hill Development**

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for LANDS

1. How much will the Housing Commission pay for the pensioner units that will be constructed in Stage 1 of the Gardens Hill development?
2. When will the Housing Commission be taking over those units?
3. Who called for the tenders for the development?
4. What will be the developer's contribution to the upgrading of services in the area (referred to in the Minister's adjournment speech of 29 August 1984)?
5. What is the component of land cost in the total cost of \$1.985m quoted by the Minister in his speech of 29 August 1984?

**ANSWER**

The matters raised in parts 1, 2, 3, and 5 of this question fall within the province of the Minister for Transport and Works and Housing and should be redirected accordingly.

With reference to the developer's contribution to the upgrading of services; under a cost sharing Agreement entered into by the developer and the Territory on 29 June 1984, the developer and the Territory pay individually for those services of no benefit to the other party. The cost of shared services is divided on a developer/Territory ratio of 17:13. Using the original cost estimate of \$612 000 for providing services, including traffic lights, the developer's contribution would be \$293 466.

**15. Gas Pipeline**

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Did the Northern Territory government or its agents sign any contracts for the purchase of pipes for the gas pipeline?
2. If so, (a) were those contracts transferred to the "consortium" and (b) did this involve any cost to the government?

**ANSWER**

1. No, CSR entered the contract in its own right.
2. (a) Yes, from CSR. (b) No.

Explanation:

The pipe order was underwritten by the Territory government as explained in the statement to the Assembly in April 1985.

"I can also inform honourable members that on 3 April 1985 CSR placed an order for some \$13mworth of pipe for the Darwin to Mataranka leg of the pipeline project. This order was underwritten by the Territory in the now unlikely event that contract negotiations with the Consortium are unsuccessful. Without such underwriting the physical schedule of pipeline construction would have been delayed and the completion schedule seriously threatened".

This underwriting took the form that in the unlikely event an agreement was not finalised with Northern Territory Gas Pty Limited, the pipeline would be novated to the Territory. This did not involve the Territory other than as a party in the novation clause in the contract and was at no cost to the Territory.

**16. Car park, Doctor's Gully**

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS and HOUSING

Has the government allocated or paid any amount which has or will be used for the construction of a car park adjacent to the Doctor's Gully fishfeeding venture and, if so, please give details?

**ANSWER**

Tourism is an important part of the Northern Territory economy and it is necessary to provide facilities to encourage tourists to visit interesting and well-known tourist attractions. There are precedents for the provision of parking facilities at Wayside Inns and tourist facilities.

The Northern Territory Tourist Commission identified Doctor's Gully as an important tourist attraction, requiring a car parking facility and accordingly approached the Department of Transport and Works. Subsequently, the Council, who agreed with the concept, contacted my Department seeking a government contribution for the project.

My Department supported the project and proposed a contribution of \$40 000 to which Treasury agreed and so an order for the amount was given to the Council, who will be the owners of the carpark.

Work is proceeding and is due for completion in August 1985.

**17. Land Holding, Doctor's Gully**

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS

1. Was the sale of the land at Doctor's Gully to Marshall Perron for a fish-feeding business subject to any conditions?
2. If so, (a) what were the conditions, and (b) have they been complied with?

**ANSWER**

1. Yes.
2. a. The conditions were the normal statutory provisions of a term lease under the Crown Lands Act, and in addition:
  - ° required an annual rental of \$4 650 payable from 1 August 1984;
  - ° required maintenance and repair of all improvements on Lot 5320;
  - ° required further improvements to a value of at least \$150 000 commencing 1 September 1984.
  - ° Extensions of these dates to 1 September 1983 and 14 January 1985 respectively were later formally sought and approved;
  - ° required all development in accordance with:
    - i. any planning instrument under the Planning Act affecting the land the subject of the lease; and
    - ii. Instrument of Determination S248 which specified that any new development or extensions to existing development will be subject to a prescribed development application made pursuant to Section 105 of the Planning Act.
  - ° provide for the conversion of the lease to fee simple on compliance with lease conditions.
- b. Yes.

**18. Coal Jetty, Channel Island**

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What was the cost of manufacture of the steel pilings for the proposed coal jetty at Channel Island?

2. Does the decision to have a gas-fired generation plant mean that the pilings are now not needed?
3. If so, what action has been taken or is planned for their alternative use or disposal?

**ANSWER**

1. Steelmains were awarded the contract for the supply and delivery of steel piles on 21 February 1984 valued at \$3 140 000. The contract is currently suspended and actual cost to date is \$2 610 000.
2. Approximately 1320 m of piles and 23 crossheads will be needed and retained for use in the construction of the power station.
3. Approximately 4700 m of piles, 8 crossheads and accessories are being sold to McKay Steel and Trading Pty Limited for a price of \$1 038 183.92. This arrangement includes all freight and will be finalised by 30 September 1985. The price accepted represents 57% of NTEC's purchase price for the same quantity of material.

Alternative use of piles on Channel Island Power Station is not cost effective. Other Northern Territory government departments have been approached and have no need of the piles.

**20. Land, Myilly Point**

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS

1. What are the details of the arrangements made with the Paspaley family and associated companies for the acquisition of their land holdings within the area of Myilly Point?
2. What alternative land has been offered as part of these arrangements and what is its value?
3. Have similar arrangements been made or are they being negotiated with other landholders within that area and, if so, what are the details?
4. What is the total amount paid to date by the government for land acquisition in the Myilly Point area? In addition, have further amounts been committed and, if so, how much?

**ANSWER**

The Northern Territory government has been negotiating with the members of the Paspaley family, Mr Tony Randazzo, the Westpac Banking Corporation, the Anglican Church, the Commonwealth government and the Northern Territory Housing Commission over the acquisition of the properties owned by these parties on Myilly Point.

The Housing Commission has agreed to relinquish its properties and is arranging the relocation of its tenants from the area. The Commonwealth has agreed in principle to the proposed purchase of its land by the Territory. Negotiations to finalise the purchase are continuing but may be prejudiced by detailed comment at this time.

Dealings with the remaining parties involve the finances of private individuals and companies and must be accorded all due confidentiality. I am not prepared to breach that confidence other than to advise that negotiations have been completed with the Paspaley family members and the Anglican Church and are continuing with other parties.

**FROM 20 August 1985**

**21. Backbench Committees**

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What committees have been formed of government backbenchers to carry out official functions or investigations on behalf of the government?
2. In respect of each committee, what government resources have been made available to it and at what cost?
3. Have any of these committees submitted progress or final reports? If so, please give details (including availability).
4. If not, please advise, for each committee, when its report is due or expected.

**ANSWER**

None. However, there are some purely advisory committees made up of government backbenchers who report to the responsible Minister. These committees are -

- Legislation Committee
- Statute Law Review Committee
- Housing Committee
- Northern Territory Theatre Company Committee
- Local Government Committee
- Land Use Committee
- Statutory Reports Committee



**22. Performing Arts Centre, Darwin**

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

In relation to the Darwin Performing Arts Centre, (a) what is the latest estimated cost to the Northern Territory government of the Darwin Performing Arts Centre; (b) what was the original estimated cost; (c) please give details of the reasons for any increase; (d) when will the Centre be open for use; (e) what was the originally planned date for the Centre to open; and (f) what are the reasons for any delay?

**ANSWER**

- a. The latest estimate of cost is \$12.3 million.
- b. The estimated cost to complete construction of the project at the award of the contract to Jennings Industries Limited in November 1982 was \$9.54 million.
- c. The increase in the cost to the government reflected inflation in the building sector and the settlement of contractual disputes.
- d. The Centre is expected to be open for use in April 1986.
- e. The contractual completion date is 5 November 1985.
- f. The project was delayed due to a series of events which included poor performance by Jennings and the financial arrangements of Burgundy Royale.

**23. New Age Thinking Seminars**

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Are New Age Thinking Seminars still being held for public servants?
2. How many public servants have attended the seminars and at what cost to the government?
3. Were tenders called for the seminars or were quotes for similar courses obtained and, if so, what are the details?
4. Was any commission paid, or did any benefits accrue directly or indirectly, to the Northern Territory agent of the Pacific Institute of Seattle, for the use of the seminars by the Northern Territory government and, if so, give details?

**ANSWER**

1. Yes. It is anticipated that the majority of N.T. Public Servants will eventually attend these seminars.

2. To date, at least 423 Public Servants have attended. The costs are as follows:

Initial outlay: \$14 000 for each set of tapes, 3 sets of which have been purchased.

Ongoing costs: \$40 per head for workbooks required by each seminar participant. Approximately 900 workbooks have been purchased.

The total cost of above is \$84 000.

3. No. Under Treasury Regulation 12(2) management consultancy services do not have to go to tender.

4. I am advised that no commission or other benefit accrued to any Northern Territory representative of the Pacific Institute.

**24. Land Claim Court Costs**

Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

What was the cost to the Northern Territory government of the Appeal to the full Federal Court of Australia in the case of Perron and the Northern Territory Planning Authority v Central Land Council?

**ANSWER**

Legal representation both as solicitor and counsel was provided by the Crown Solicitor's office and no charge was made or will be made to the Northern Territory Planning Authority for this service. Therefore no legal costs have been incurred by the Northern Territory Planning Authority in this appeal.

Costs were awarded by the Federal Court against the Planning Authority. The solicitors for the Central Land Council have written requesting \$9 800.85 as their costs by letter dated 26 August 1985. A response has been made by letter from the Crown Solicitor's office dated 28 August 1985.

25.

**TIO Advertising**

Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

What have been the costs of advertising by the Territory Insurance Office for each month since July 1984 for:

- a. television;
- b. radio; and
- c. other media?

**ANSWER**

I attach a table answering the Honourable Member's question showing the breakdown of advertising costs by the TIO throughout 1984-85. I should mention that the expenditure on advertising by the TIO needs to be seen in perspective. It is advertising which either projects the corporate image or corporate products and it is much the same - indeed I would see in many instances considerably better in quality - than many other insurers need to produce in order to maintain a position in what is a competitive market. In terms of its premium income, the TIO's advertising expenditure budget is not excessive. If it is measured against premium income then it represents only 0.37% of premium income for the year. The State Government Insurance Office of Queensland, for example, spends about \$1.5m per annum in advertising or 15% of premium income and the State Government Insurance Corporation of South Australia also spends about 0.5% of premium income.

See table on following page.

T.I.O. - ADVERTISING EXPENSESJULY 1984 TO JUNE 1985

	<u>RADIO</u>	<u>T V</u>	<u>OTHER</u>
July 1984	3,180.00	8,299.00	4,872.91
August	2,311.66	2,520.00	8,274.32
September	3,493.33	1,680.00	3,705.60
October	1,303.33	250.00	2,208.00
November	3,333.33	3,037.00	1,879.80
December	2,455.00	3,040.00	2,715.40
January 1985	2,183.33	3,732.00	1,767.20
February	3,418.33	-	4,210.00
March	4,028.33	5,139.00	2,773.20
April	1,641.67	3,177.00	1,699.60
May	1,704.33	1,845.00	2,000.00
June	1,633.33	1,618.00	1,932.40
	<u>\$30,685.97</u>	<u>\$34,337.00</u>	<u>\$38,038.43</u>
	\$103,061.40		
	<u>40,978.46</u>		
	<u>\$144,039.86</u>		

Production costs, agency  
fees, brochures, pamphlets  
etc.

**26. Waramunga Land Claim**

Mr EDE to CHIEF MINISTER

What was the cost to the Northern Territory government for its opposition to the Waramunga land claim during the period 1 January 1982 to 31 July 1985 for -

- a. private consultants and QCs engaged to prepare the government's case;
- b. internal costs incurred by -
  - i. Department of Community Development;
  - ii. Department of Law;
  - iii. Chief Minister's Department; and
- c. the total cost of defending this land claim?

**ANSWER**

- a. for consultants and/or QC's fees and amount of \$180 093.13
- b. Internal costs, i.e. travelling allowance and airfare costs as follows -
 

i. Department of Community Development	7 340.00
ii. Department of Law	39 493.91
iii. Department of Chief Minister	1 700.00
- c. Total cost in relation to land claim expenses \$228 627.04

**27. Education Staffing Levels**

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What are the gradings and duties of the 50 positions removed from the Department of Education as announced in the government's 1985 mini budget?

**ANSWER**

See table on following pages.

The 1985 Review and reorganisation of the Northern Territory Department of Education recommended the removal of 80 identified positions and the creation of 30 additional positions, giving a net reduction of 50 positions. The review applied to office-based positions only.

The reductions and additions are listed by Branch, Level and Designation. Detailed Duty Statements are available from the office of the Minister for Education. A copy of the review is supplied.

Reductions

<u>Branch</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Designation</u>
Schools Central	S.E.O.	Senior Education Officer Girls*
	A3	Clerical Support
Personnel	E.O.	Education Officer Staffing
	A6	Recruitment Officer
	A5	Removals Clerk
	A9	Safety Coordinator
Schools Branch	E.O.	Education Officer Research
	Superintendent	Superintendent Secondary & Careers
	S.E.O.	Senior Education Officer Curriculum
	E.O.	Education Officer Early Childhood Education
	E.O.	Education Officer Guidance
	E.O.	Education Officer Language
	E.O.	Education Officer Special Education
	E.O.	Education Officer Language
	Band 1	Teacher Education Centre Katherine
	Band 1	Special Education Itinerant Teacher
	A3	Staff Clerk
	A6	Transfer Clerk

\* This temporary position has subsequently been approved for a further 3 years following consideration of the report submitted by the S.E.O. on tasks required to be undertaken.

	A1	Office Service Assistant
	Labourer	Tea Attendant
	Labourer	Tea Attendant
	Labourer	Tea Attendant
	Labourer	Tea Attendant
	A8	Administrative Officer
	A1	Keyboard Operator
	A1	Keyboard Operator
	A3	Stores Inspector
	A4	Senior Stores Inspector
	A1	Keyboard operator
	A6	Administrative Officer
	A4	Service Clerk
	Class 2	Physiotherapist
	A6	Administrative Officer
	A4	Service Clerk
	Storeman	Storeman
Curriculum and Assessment	E.O.	Education Officer Health and Physical Education
	E.O.	Education Officer Music
	S.E.O.	Senior Education Officer Science
	E.O.	Education Officer Science
	E.O.	Education Officer Social and Cultural Education
	S.E.O.	Senior Education Officer Arts
	E.O.	Education Officer Arts/Crafts

	S.E.O.	Senior Education Officer Early Childhood Education
	S.E.O.	Senior Education Officer Bilingual
	S.E.O.	Senior Education Officer Teaching English as a Second Language
	E.O.	Education Officer Teaching English as a Second Language
	E.O.	Education Officer Secondary
	E.O.	Education Officer Hearing Impaired
	E3.	Senior Research Officer
	A9	Administrative Officer
	A4	WordProcess Operator
	A3	WordProcess Operator
	Class 3	Linguist
	Class 2	Linguist
	A1	Keyboard Operator
	A1	Registry Assistant
TAFE	S.E.O.	Senior Education Officer Technical and Further Education
	E.O.	Education Officer Technical and Further Education
	A8	Policy Analyst
	A8	Research Assistant
	A6	Training and Development Assistant
	A3	Support Clerk



	A7	Administrative Officer
	A3	Relief Clerk
	A3	Administrative Officer
	A3	Administrative Officer
	A3	Library Assistant
	A1	Administrative Clerk
	A1	Keyboard Operator
	A1	Keyboard Operator
	Class 3	Librarian
	Class 2	Librarian
	Class 1	Librarian
Planning and Coordination	A7	Assistant Estimates Officer
	A6	Field Officer
	A6	Field Officer
	E1	Information Officer
	A7	Administrative Officer
	A4	Administrative Officer
Educational Facilities	A5	Planning Services
<u>Additions</u>		
<u>Branch</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Designation</u>
Schools Branch North	E.O.	Education Officer Education Centre Katherine
	A7	Administrative Officer
Curriculum and Assessment	S.E.O.	Literacy Inservice Course/Basic Learning in Primary Schools
	E.O.	Education Officer Assessment in Aboriginal Schools

	P.E.O.	Principal Education Officer Languages other than English
Policy Secretariat	E4	Director
Planning and Coordination	A4 A7	Shared Logic Information Systems
	A4	Estimates Officer
	A9	Information Systems
	A4	Secretarial Support
Special Programs	E1	Executive Officer EAC
	E3	Special Projects Coordinator
	E2	Non-Government Schools and Student Assistance Policy Officer
	E3	Community Relations Coordinator
Schools Branch South	A1	Facilities Clerk
Facilities and Administration	A5 A5	Salaries Team Leader Salaries Team Leader
	A4	Staff Clerk
	A3	Student Assistance
TAFE	A5	Administrative Officer
	A1	Administrative Clerk
	Officer Class 1	Librarian
	Officer Class 2	Librarian
	Officer Class 2	Librarian
	Officer Class 2	Librarian
	Officer Class 2	Librarian
	Class 3	Librarian
	Class 3	Librarian
	Class 3	Librarian.

**FROM 12 November 1985**

**29. Aboriginal Employment**

Mr EDE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people are employed by the whole of the Northern Territory Public Service and at what designations are those staff employed?
2. What is the breakdown of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people employed on a permanent full-time basis and those employed on a short-term contract?

**ANSWER**

In August 1984 my predecessor advised that accurate figures concerning Aboriginal employment and designations in the Northern Territory Public Service should be available in late 1984 or early 1985 when INTERPERS is fully functional.

It was intended at that time to incorporate into the INTERPERS system a question relating to Aboriginality. Following discussions with the Equal Employment Opportunities Branch and the Aboriginal Development Branch of the Public Service Commissioner's Office and the Northern Territory Unions, it was decided not to proceed as there was no agreement reached to record ethnicity of persons employed in the NTPS. The question of recording Aboriginality has raised criticism in other States.

It is possible to provide an approximation of any designated group of supervisor identification which is the system used in the Australian Public Service. It is intended to request such advice from supervisors on 1 July 1986.

**30. Housing Aboriginal Communities**

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. For each of the following communities - Alcoota Station, Aluralkwe, Areyonga, Docker River, Finke, Haasts Bluff, Hermannsburg, Imanpa Community/Mount Ebenezer, Jay Creek, Kintore, Maryvale, Mbunghara, Papunya, Santa Teresa, Wallace Rockhole, Yulara/Ayers Rock - how many -
  - a. people
  - b. children
  - c. adult males
  - d. adult females; and
  - e. family/clan groups,live in each of these communities?

2. In these communities, how many -
- structural dwellings are there in each of them; and
  - of these dwellings -
- (i) power; (ii) internal cold running water; (iii) internal hot running water; (iv) attached toilets; (v) a shower/bath; and (vi) an attached laundry?
3. How many of the family/clan groups in these communities reside in structured dwellings fitted with -
- (a) all; (b) some; and (c) none of the facilities referred to in 2(b)?

**ANSWER**

1. NAME	(a) Pop.	(b) Children (0-14 yrs)	(c) Adult Males	(d) Adult Females
Alcoota (Engawala)	70	29	17	24
Aluralkwe (Little Well)	50	No data available on population breakup		
Areyonga	151	57	47	47
Docker River	441	167	134	140
Finke (Apatula)	100	47	33	20
Haasts Bluff	179	49	61	69
Hermannsburg	354	164	91	99
Imanpa	180	41	80	59
Jay Creek	56	19	17	20
Kintore	314	138	84	92
Maryvale	103	49	27	27
Mbungara	51	24	10	17
Papunya	352	182	82	88
Santa Teresa	550	175	210	165
Wallace Rockhole	51	17	19	15
Yulara (Ayers Rock)	97	40	27	30

NOTE: The above figures are approximate only and based on 1983 data.

1(e) Data not presently available for N.T. Government sources.

2(a)

	<u>Structural Dwellings</u>	
	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Shelters</u>
Alcoota (Engawala)	6	8
Aluralkwe (Little Well)		6
Areyonga	12	2
Docker River	22 (+5 in 1985/86)	
Finke (Apatula)	28	
Haasts Bluff	5 (+3 flats)	
Hermannsburg	42	
Imanpa	15	
Jay Creek	12 (+4 pensioner units)	
Kintore	4 (+6 in 1985/86)	15
Maryvale	6	18
Mbungara		6
Papunya	32	40
Santa Teresa	39	43
Wallace Rockhole	3	22
Yulara (Ayers Rock)	5 (+ facilities of old motel)	

2(b) Data not presently available from Northern Territory government sources.

3. As with question 2(b), data not presently available from Northern Territory government sources.

Some of the information relating to questions 2(b) to 3 may be available from Commonwealth Government agencies such as the Aboriginal Development Commission which carries out annual Aboriginal housing needs surveys.

I have previously advised the Assembly of an initiative of my Department to develop Aboriginal Community profiles as an aid to planning services to communities such as those referred to by the Honourable Member. Information, such as numbers of family/clan groups (Question 1(e)) will eventually become available as part of this profile collection.

**34. Executive Assistant to Under Treasurer**

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER and TREASURER

1. Will the Minister confirm that in the selection of an officer to fill the position of Executive Assistant to the Under Treasurer of the Northern Territory that any of the following occurred -
  - a. the selection panel recommended the appointment of an existing employee of the Northern Territory Public Service;
  - b. the Under Treasurer sought to appoint a person from outside the NTPS;
  - c. the Public Service Commissioner wrote to the Under Treasurer informing him that his proposal to ignore the selection panel's recommendation and to make his own appointment was improper; and
  - d. the Under Treasurer sought and received from the then Treasurer a written direction or permission to proceed with his course of action?
2. Would the Minister provide me with official copies of any correspondence on this matter?

**ANSWER**

There is no position of Executive Assistant in Treasury. It is assumed the question relates to the position of Head of Secretariat:

1.
  - a. No - the selection panel (Dr R Madden, Mr P Temple and Mrs J Prince) unanimously recommended the appointment of a person not employed in the Northern Territory Public Service.
  - b. Yes - acting on the advice of the Selection Committee.
  - c. The Public Service Commissioner approved the Under Treasurer's request.
  - d. There was no discussion on the matter with the Minister.
2. Given the actual course of events, access to relevant correspondence appears unnecessary. Should the Leader of the Opposition wish, relevant correspondence can be made available to him on a confidential basis.

36.

**Bill of Rights**

Mr B. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

1. What were the results and cost of the commission given by the Attorney-General in May 1982 to Mr Des Sturgess and Professor Darryl Lumb to formulate a Bill of Rights for statehood?
2. If no results are available, please advise when may they be expected?

**ANSWER**

I advise that, in the case of Mr Sturgess, initial discussion took place between the then Attorney-General, Mr Everingham, and Mr Sturgess concerning the preparation of a draft Bill of Rights. Later preliminary correspondence was entered into between the Northern Territory government and Mr Sturgess and with Professor Lumb concerning the drafting of a Bill of Rights. No formal brief, however was delivered to either party. Neither Mr Sturgess nor Professor Lumb submitted a draft Bill of Rights.

Neither Mr Sturgess nor Professor Lumb submitted an account.

As for the second question, there is nothing further expected of Mr Sturgess or Professor Lumb as regards a draft Bill of Rights.

37.

**Statehood Consultant**

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What are the details surrounding the appointment of Mr Lex Silvester of Mildren Silvester and Partners as a consultant on statehood, including - (a) length of appointment; (b) terms and conditions of the appointment; (c) terms of reference of the consultancy; and (d) the remuneration for consultancy (including expected total cost, if remuneration is not in one lump sum)?

**ANSWER**

Mr Lex Silvester has been appointed as a Ministerial officer in the Office of the Chief Minister. Mr Silvester has taken leave without pay from the firm of Mildren Silvester and Partners for the duration of the consultancy.

The terms and conditions of Mr Silvester's appointment are in line with normal arrangements for a senior Ministerial Officer of Mr Silvester's qualifications and background. It is not the government's practice to make available the precise details of arrangements negotiated with individuals in such circumstances.

The Chief Minister has Ministerial officers who handle Public Service Commission, Racing and Gaming, Treasury and Police among their responsibilities. One of Mr Silvester's responsibilities is to liaise with the Office of the Special Minister for Constitutional Development on issues relating to statehood.

**38.**

**Liquor Laws Review**

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRY and SMALL BUSINESS

Has the Review of the Northern Territory Liquor Laws, announced by the Chief Minister on 16 September 1984, (a) been completed; (b) is there a report available and what are the results; and (c) if not, when is the Report expected to be completed?

**ANSWER**

In a press release dated 16 September 1984, the former Chief Minister, Mr Everingham, said that he would discuss alcohol related violence with the Police Commissioner and senior police officers. The discussion which took place eventually involved not only the police but also the Liquor Commission.

A 'review' of the Northern Territory liquor laws (in the sense of a formal structured enquiry) was not instituted and therefore no report was produced. Arising from the discussions, during the ensuing year Liquor Commission and police officers have been paying closer attention to offences arising in and around licensed premises. The restricted area provisions of the Liquor Act have also been the subject of closer examination.

As Minister responsible for the Liquor Commission, I have requested a review of all aspects of the restricted area legislation. The terms of reference will include, for example, the effectiveness of a 'dry' area and the impact of dry areas on surrounding communities.

PRESS RELEASE BY THE CHIEF MINISTER, PAUL EVERINGHAM  
16 September 1984

The Chief Minister Paul Everingham, says the government will re-examine Territory Liquor Laws in the light of the horrendous death rate caused by alcohol-related violence.

Mr Everingham will discuss the problem with Police Commissioner Peter McAulay and senior police officers this week.

"We have to balance up people's right to drink with the government's responsibilities to the total community" Mr Everingham said.

"And when members of the community are literally being murdered because of alcohol abuse, it is time to re-assess the ease of access to alcohol under current liquor laws."



The Chief Minister said that every Territorian was horrified at a series of alcohol-related incidents in Katherine last week which left three people dead.

The Territory's homicide rate is far higher than the national average and police say that many of the deaths are caused by alcohol-related violence.

Mr Everingham said the Territory government was continually stepping up its program of education and rehabilitation in an effort to stem alcohol abuse.

"But the tragic fact is that people are still dying, and all the education programs in the world will not restore all those wasted lives" Mr Everingham said.

"It seems that greater access to alcohol means greater consumption, so we may have to examine ways of limiting that access."

ENDS

### **39. Territory Property Trust**

Mr B. COLLINS to TREASURER

With the announcement of the 5 million \$1 units in the casino Territory Property Trust being purchased by the Territory Insurance Office -

- a. what are the details of the financial analysis of the earning potential of the casinos which was referred to in the announcement of the purchase;
- b. is a report of the analysis available;
- c. what were the terms of the purchase of the 5 million \$1 shares; and
- d. what particular terms of purchase were applicable to the 2.6 million units over which an option is held by Greate Bay Casino and Aspinall Holdings Pty Limited?

### **ANSWER**

- a. In placing these units with the Territory Insurance Office, the Territory Property Trust made available its detailed rental estimates and budget projections for the casino properties as well as assumptions used for extrapolation. The TIO also received associated Trust and Lease documentation, previously tabled in the Legislative Assembly, under which a dividend of at least 10% per annum, rising with the Consumer Price Index, is assured.

- b. The detailed budget analysis and projections are commercially sensitive and confidential and for the the protection of the casino operations cannot be made available to other parties.
- c. All units were issued at par for cash and are of the same class as other units already on issue.
- d. The 2.6 million units over which the operators have options are the subject of a private commercial agreement between the trust and the TIO to protect their respective rights and obligations should the option be exercised.

**40. Alcohol and Drug Abuse**

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

The former Minister for Health stated on 19 September 1984 that allocations associated with drug and alcohol abuse in the 1984-85 Northern Territory Budget totalled nearly \$2m; what are the details of total allocations in this area in the 1985-86 Budget?

**ANSWER**

The total allocation for drug and alcohol abuse in the Northern Territory for 1985-86 is \$2 151 000.

This amount is broken down into the following groups:

Grants in Aid	\$1 053 500
Drug and Alcohol Bureau and Drug and Alcohol Advisory Committee	354 000
Royal Darwin Hospital:	
° Alcohol Dependence Treatment Unit	176 00
° Detoxification Unit	222 000
National Campaign Against Drug Abuse (50% Commonwealth Funded)	22 600
National Drug Education Programme (100% Commonwealth funded)	90 000
Nhulunbuy Community Counsellor	29 600

**41. Aboriginal Community Dry Areas**

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRY and SMALL BUSINESS

Given that, on 29 August 1985, during the debate on the Liquor Amendment Bill 1985 (Serial 85), the Minister referred to "definite

indications from police and health authorities that strict enforcement of a dry area lessens the degree of alcohol related illness, injury and community disturbance" -

- a. what are the details of those "indications"; and
- b. if they are contained in reports, are those reports available?

**ANSWER**

The word used by the Minister was 'indications' not the obviously different word 'indicators'. At this point, the statistical indicators have not been collected from local health, police and educational authorities. In the near future, there will begin a study which, among other things, will collect and collate records available in Aboriginal communities.

The words used in the debate were 'definite indications'. The indications have been conveyed by the Chairman of the Liquor Commission arising out of regular discussions on Aboriginal communities. In particular, the Chairman has had access to the records of police and health authorities stationed at Aboriginal communities. On many occasions, the Chairman has held hearings in Aboriginal communities related to restricted areas. The conclusion reached at most of these hearings is that the majority of the people in an Aboriginal community believe firstly that enforcing the restricted area reduces the amount of alcohol which arrives at the community. Secondly, less alcohol in the community means that there is less community disturbance.

The previous Chairman of the Liquor Commission had a similar experience. For the information of Honourable Members, a copy of the Commission "Report on Restricted Areas" dated March 1982 has been placed in the Parliamentary Library.

**42. Police Headquarters**

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

In respect of the new police headquarters' complex in McMillan's Road -(a) what was the originally announced completion date; (b) what was the actual completion date; (c) what were the reasons (including claims by the contractors) which caused an extension of time. (d) what was the originally announced cost of the construction; (e) what was the final cost; and (f) who will bear the increased cost?

**ANSWER**

- a. The original contract completion date for the complex was 6 August 1984.

- b. The complex was occupied by the police on 4 May 1985 although a number of minor items were not completed until 30 June 1985.
- c. Delays in completing the complex were caused by:
  - ° contract variations which included:
    - i. necessary design changes
    - ii. construction problems
    - iii. additional work to provide a headquarters building for the Northern Territory Fire Service;
  - ° normal extensions of time granted for inclement weather;
  - ° introduction of the 38 week;
  - ° termination of the mechanical nominated subcontract due to the NSC being put into receivership;
  - ° remedial work by the contractor to ensure that specified standards of finish were achieved;
  - ° late completion by the contractor.
- d. The initial estimated and announced cost of the complex construction was \$11 500 000.

Additional funding of \$1 300 000 was provided by the Northern Territory Government during the course of the project for the following:

- ° \$650 000 for Northern Territory Fire Service Headquarters;
  - ° \$650 000 for client initiated variations and other design and construction variations.
- e. Negotiations as to the final cost are continuing; however, the final cost of the complex is expected to be contained within the revised program provision of \$12 800 000.

The exact figure has yet to be determined due to the need to resolve outstanding contractual claims but is likely to provide for a significant deduction from the contract sum as liquidated damages owing to the government arising from late completion by the contractor
  - f. There are not expected to be any increased costs for anyone to bear.

### 43. Police and Police Aides

Mr EDE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many police officers and police aides were stationed at the following locations in 1975 and 1984 -
  - a. Lajamanu;
  - b. Tennant Creek;
  - c. Yuendumu
  - d. Papunya;
  - e. Hermannsburg;
  - f. Ali Curung;
  - g. Alice Springs;
  - h. total for the Southern Region?
2. How many cases were brought before the magistrates court covering the Southern Region in 1974 and 1984?

#### ANSWER

1.

	Police Officers		Police Aides	
	1974	1984	1975	1984
a. Lajamanu	2	2	Nil	1
b. Tennant Creek	13	22	Nil	1
c. Yuendumu	2	3	Nil	1
d. Papunya	2	3	Nil	Nil
e. Hermannsburg	Nil	2	Nil	Nil
f. Ali Curung	2	2	Nil	2
g. Alice Springs	54	84	Nil	Nil
h. Total for Southern Region	82	139	Nil	5

2.

<u>1974</u>	<u>1984</u>
5613	8375

The figures given do not accurately reflect the Police Southern Command or for that matter the Court Circuit, Southern Region, as Lajamanu did not come within the jurisdiction of Southern Magistrates in 1974 and in police manpower terms is part of Northern Command. As well, there are a number of other police stations in Southern Command who are also on the Court Circuit, including Tennant Creek and Alice Springs. Additionally the police aide scheme did not commence until 1979.

**44. Expenditure Secretariat and Federal Affairs**

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What are the expenditure details within the Department of the Chief Minister under the Activity Headings of Secretariat and Federal Affairs?
2. In respect of this expenditure, what are the -
  - a. names of officers employed and their respective positions;
  - b. officers' classifications and respective periods of employment;
  - c. major items in Administrative and Operational expenses; and
  - d. details of any consultancies expected?
3. Included under these Activity Headings, what is the extent of "support for Federal representatives" which relates to -
  - a. any direct payments for wages, salaries or allowances of persons employed or associated with the Federal representatives; and
  - b. any expenses of Federal representatives met from this Activity Heading?

**ANSWER**

See tables on following pages.

SECRETARIAT

1. The funding for this activity was provided in the 1985/86 budget. Expenditure details for the period 1.7.85 to 10.9.85 are:

Salaries and Allowances	\$44 625
Administrative Expenses	\$ <u>4 468</u>

- 2(a). It is inappropriate and unnecessary to provide names of officers in particular positions.

- 2(b). Positions

E4 Director  
 E2 Executive Officer  
 E1 Executive Officer  
 A9 Projects Officer  
 A7 Administrative Officer  
 A4 Secretary

- 2(c). Major items within the 1985/86 Administrative Expenses budget are:

° Travel	\$11 000
° Printing, publications	\$23 000
° Consultancies	\$20 000
° Advertising "Inside your Parliament"	\$15 000
° New office costs and incidentals	<u>\$10 000</u>
Total 1985/86 budget	\$79 000

- 2(d). No consultancies are programmed to date.

3. Nil.

FEDERAL AFFAIRS

1. Funding for this activity was provided for in the 1985-86 budget. Expenditure details for the period 1.7.85 to 30.9.86 are:

Salaries and Allowances	\$3006
Administrative Expenses	<u>\$1428</u>
	\$4434

- 2(a). It is inappropriate and unnecessary to provide names of officers in particular positions.

- 2(b). Positions

E4 Director  
E2 Executive Officer  
A3 Administrative Assistant

- 2(c). Major items within the 1985/86 Administrative Expenses budget are:

° Travel	\$15 000
° Economic Studies	\$35 000
° Membership of A.C.I.R.	\$10 000
° Printing, publications	\$14 000
° New office costs and incidentals	<u>\$10 000</u>
Total 1985/86 budget	\$84 000

- 2(d). No consultancies are programmed to date.

3. Nil.





Comment by Special Minister for Constitutional Development

Mr B. COLLINS to SPECIAL MINISTER for CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

I refer to his quite extraordinary statement yesterday about 'silly challenges in court' in respect of the Northern Territory Public Service Act. I would imagine that courts are in a position themselves to determine whether court actions are silly or not. Can he confirm that his totally improper reference yesterday to 'silly challenges in court' in respect of the Public Service Act - which, in my view, borders on contempt - was a reference to the Bob Ellis matter currently before the courts since that is the only challenge yet mounted to the recent amendments to the act? Can he advise whether his remarks about 'silly challenges in court' were intended to further intimidate public servants against availing themselves of their legal rights to protect themselves against improper suspension or removal?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, if my words yesterday in the media in any way imputed or can be taken to impute any disrespect to the courts, I withdraw them unreservedly. Sometimes, and I am the first to admit it, one says things that one regrets later and that was one such occasion.

Renal Dialysis Unit for Central Australia

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

When will the renal dialysis unit for the treatment of patients with kidney disorders come into operation in central Australia?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am pleased to advise members that the establishment of a renal dialysis unit in Alice Springs is good news for those residents of Alice Springs who have had to travel interstate for such a service. As members would be aware, for some time now a considerable number of residents of central Australia have been domiciled in Adelaide to receive the dialysis service.

The Department of Health in Alice Springs currently is conducting negotiations to draw up plans to have the facility operational hopefully by June or July next year. Negotiations are taking place with an expert in the field of renal dialysis - namely, Dr Pugsly, from Adelaide - and with the people responsible for providing this service in South Australia at the moment. The service has received quite a deal of favourable comment.

I should pay tribute to the combined service clubs in Alice Springs, particularly the Quota Club which raised this issue some time ago. I take the view that, if it were not for their efforts, the provision of a dialysis unit would not be on the drawing board. I commend the service clubs in Alice Springs for raising, as at 1 October 1985, some \$16 000 from the community. That will go a long way towards providing a renal dialysis unit. They have been very specific about that. They did not want a particular room named after them or a taxi service or a bus service to provide transport for people; they wanted a renal dialysis unit. I am pleased to advise the Quota Club and the other service clubs in Alice Springs that that is exactly what their money will be used for: the provision of a renal dialysis unit. As I mentioned

previously, it will be in place as soon as practicable. It is very important that all the expert negotiations which are required to provide this particular service are carried out very responsibly.

I am sure that members, and in particular the members for MacDonnell and Stuart, would be well aware that we have particular problems with hepatitis B. I will be advising the Assembly further on specific arrangements that will be made to deal with that problem.

#### Remuneration of Mr Lex Sylvester

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Mr Speaker, earlier this year, I placed a question on notice concerning the remuneration being paid to a well-known Darwin solicitor and even better known member of the Country Liberal Party, Mr Lex Sylvester. I asked the Chief Minister and Treasurer to provide me with the terms of Mr Sylvester's appointment and the remuneration provided. In his answer on 11 October, the Chief Minister refused to provide that information. Could he now advise the Assembly whether Mr Sylvester's remuneration is being paid for privately by the Country Liberal Party or whether Mr Sylvester is being paid from the public purse as a ministerial officer? Why did he refuse earlier to provide me with this information and will he provide the information now?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, Mr Sylvester was working in my office on a temporary, contractual arrangement on secondment from his firm. I did not think it was appropriate at that time to divulge the terms of the contractual arrangement. Subsequently, Mr Sylvester was appointed to my staff as a principal private secretary and will be remunerated by the Northern Territory government like any other ministerial officer. I will make the details of the contractual arrangements available today if the member so wishes.

#### Wills Terrace Pedestrian Crossing

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

The minister previously advised that he would use his office and his position to try to influence the Alice Springs Town Council to provide a pedestrian crossing for the senior citizens in Wills Terrace. What has occurred?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the particular crossing to which the member for Braitling is referring is situated on Wills Terrace near the Senior Citizen's Club clubrooms in Alice Springs. I know it is of great concern to him but, because it is a council responsibility and the council is duly elected by the people of Alice Springs, I think it would be improper for me to attempt to influence it in relation to the provision of a crossing. However, I would have no hesitation in providing any information that the council may require on traffic flows and future traffic patterns in the Alice Springs area which may assist it to come to a decision in this matter.

Gove Airport Control Tower

Mr FINCH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I understand that the federal Department of Aviation has deferred the commissioning of the new Gove airport control tower. Why was it deferred and what are the implications for the people of Gove?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the story of the Gove control tower is certainly rather intriguing. In 1980, the Department of Aviation insisted that no additional DC9 or 737 jet flights would be permitted to operate through Gove until an air traffic control facility was provided. At that time, both Ansett and TAA were operating 2 flights a week through Gove and both airlines had identified the need for an additional service. The Department of Aviation decision was made on the grounds that unreliable weather forecasting in the area and the projected heavy growth in Gove air traffic would not permit the required operational standards to be met.

Construction of the control tower commenced last year and, by July this year, the tower had been completed and most of the communications equipment had been put in place. A contract had been let for the construction of 3 residences for air traffic control staff in Gove. The total expenditure on the project at that time was around \$1.6m. It was then that the Department of Aviation decided to review the situation to determine whether commissioning of the tower could be justified on the basis that the total number of aircraft movements had increased by only 7% from 1980 to 1985 and not the projected 38%. The Bureau of Meteorology intends to open a station at Gove in the near future and the department considers that that will overcome concerns in relation to inaccurate weather forecasting for the area.

The current level of jet services through Gove has been maintained without any evidence of a compromise of operational standards. Ansett and TAA indicated that probably they would seek only 1 additional service each week and the estimated operational cost if the control tower were commissioned would be about \$235 000 per annum.

Early in October 1985, the Department of Aviation decided that the commissioning of the control tower should be deferred with a further review of the situation to take place in June 1986. On reaching that decision, the Department of Aviation has set the following parameters for approving one additional DC9 or B737 flight through Gove: the new weather facility must be operating to provide accurate weather forecasting; the airlines must provide justification for additional services; and a minimum of 2 hours separation must apply to scheduled jet flight services to avoid jet aircraft being in the area at the same time. I am advised that the airlines wish to schedule 2 additional flights a week through Gove and Ansett desires to commence its extra service as soon as possible. Also, TAA intends to introduce additional services as of March next year.

As it stands at the moment, Gove and Groote Eylandt people will not receive the level of air service which the airlines are willing to provide. The situation is unsatisfactory. With almost \$2m spent to date on the control tower and associated housing, the Gove control tower saga assumes the trappings of a mini-Darwin Airport story. It is a real stop-start situation, and is obviously to the detriment of the travelling public in the area. It is

certainly interesting to note that, over the last couple of years, we have seen Commonwealth expenditure of \$9.7m at Darwin Airport, \$2m for the Gove control tower and \$8.5m for surveying the railway route from Alice Springs to Darwin. That totals more than \$30m of Commonwealth money that has been spent in the Territory and which has resulted in no jobs and no additional amenities for any Territorians. I think that is an appalling situation. It certainly indicates one of the reasons why our federal government is in so much trouble financially.

#### Appointment of Director of Equal Employment Opportunities

Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

My question concerns the filling of the position of the Director of Equal Employment Opportunities in his department. Why is it taking so long to fill the position? Is it true that Cabinet refused to accept the recommendation of the selection panel? Will he assure the Assembly that, in filling this position, accepted public service procedures will be followed; that is, that there will be no discrimination based on race, sex or marital status - particularly, in this case, marital status?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the government is very interested in the selection of the officer to fill the position of Director of Equal Employment Opportunities. The appointment will be by Cabinet because it is a very sensitive and a very important position, and it is being treated as such. The procedures of advertising, interview and appointment will be done as carefully as possible. In fact, advertising and interviews have been carried out by officers of the public service and a short list of potential candidates for the position has been recommended to Cabinet. In the next couple of weeks, the Minister for Community Development, myself, the Public Service Commissioner and the Secretary of the Chief Minister's Department will interview the persons on the short list and the selection will be made on the basis of merit. No other basis is of much importance. I am absolutely astounded that, before any decision has been taken, people are running off in various directions making claims about improper decisions. I say to the member that we are very serious about the appointment of the officer to the Equal Opportunities Office and the matter is being treated very carefully. The position will go to the person who merits it most.

#### Gunn Point Prison Farm

Mrs PADGHAM PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In view of the recent media reports regarding overcrowding at Darwin Prison, can he assure me that conditions of entry will not be relaxed for prisoner selection to the minimum security prison at Gunn Point?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would like to be able to tell the member for Koolpinyah that I will shift people out of the maximum security facilities at Berrimah and put them at Gunn Point but, unfortunately, I cannot because the Gunn Point facility is full. There has been no relaxation of the classification criteria to enter Gunn Point. In fact, as a result of a recent escape from Gunn Point Prison Farm, 3 prisoners were transferred back to Darwin Prison. I know the

member is concerned because Gunn Point is within her electorate and also the access road to and from Gunn Point passes through her electorate. The circumstances surrounding the recent escape from Gunn Point raised some concern among people in her electorate.

The short answer is that the government is addressing the problem of overcrowding in the prison system within the Northern Territory. The classification for prisoners going into a minimum security prison such as the one at Gunn Point will not be relaxed in any way at all. As I said, as a result of a recent escape, 3 prisoners were transferred from the minimum security area back to Darwin Prison. We do have a problem, however, and I will be making some announcements on overcrowding and some of the proposals I will be putting to my colleagues to ensure that we reduce the population of Northern Territory prisons.

As I have said many times in this Assembly, this is a growth industry that the Territory can well do without. There was one stage during recent weeks when our prison population went over 396 which far exceeds the Apsey predictions concerning our prison populations for the year 1990. Already, we are only 40 off what he predicted for the year 2000.

We have problems and we will be looking for resolutions to those problems. I assure the member that we will not be jeopardising the safety of any person in her electorate. The issue will be addressed in a rational manner and I hope to announce some proposals in the very near future in this Assembly.

#### Infringements at Ranger Uranium Mine

Mr EDE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What has he done to ensure the cessation of continued major infringements and incidents associated with failures of the Ranger tailings line, the associated damage to his own image as an environmental manager and, more importantly, the damage to the Kakadu environment?

ANSWER

I must confess that, at present, I am not completely familiar with the situation. Recently, there have been a couple of acting Ministers for Mines and Energy. However, the matter of the tailings line at Ranger has been of some concern to myself and acting ministers. Indeed, I spoke with federal ministers on this matter only a month or so ago. There has been considerable interchange on this matter between the Department of Mines and Energy and the company. My colleague, the Minister for Education, then acting Minister for Mines and Energy, actually summoned a senior official from the Ranger company to his office to tell him in no uncertain terms what he believed the company should do to resolve this matter forthwith.

Some public remarks, however, have overdramatised the situation. This is nothing new with respect to environmental controls at Ranger. We have become accustomed to ridiculous emotional statements about contaminated material spewing into the rivers and radioactivity everywhere. I noticed that there were some glaring examples in a Darwin newspaper quite recently in relation to so-called leaks from the tailings line at Ranger. The company is working on the replacement of the line. Off the cuff, I cannot tell the member exactly how much of the line has been replaced. From recollection, the company is replacing not only the line that takes the slurry to the tailings dam but also

the line that returns water to the treatment plant for circulation in the processing of the uranium ore. The government has a complete list of the leaks, drips, slips and sprays that have occurred over the last few months in relation to this line. I point out that there is a bund wall that runs along each side of the line which is designed to contain any material that is released accidentally from the line. In a couple of instances, some water has sprayed outside this bund wall but those matters have been addressed under the normal clean-up procedures which are quite clearly laid down for such incidents.

#### Renal Dialysis Unit for Central Australia

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Mr Speaker, my question refers to the previous answer that he gave in relation to the establishment of a renal dialysis unit in Alice Springs. I would like to preface my question by offering my congratulations both to the minister and to the Northern Territory government for the establishment of this much-needed facility. Where will the renal dialysis unit be sited in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, representations have been made to me concerning the siting of the unit in Alice Springs. I am pleased to advise members that I have decided that the facility will be located at the Flynn Drive Community Health Centre. There are very specific reasons for my decision. The proposal to locate the facility in the grounds of the Alice Springs Hospital has several disadvantages. The first and foremost is that the provision of a renal dialysis service is seen as a community health service. It is important that people being dialysed be made comfortable in an environment relevant to the community. There is no room in the grounds of the Alice Springs Hospital for the facility to be built and it is not possible to locate it in an existing facility. There is an old building in the grounds of the Alice Springs Hospital, and I am sure that is what the member for MacDonnell referred to. We decided not to locate the service there because the service should not be institutionalised and because the cost to renovate that building, particularly the cost of plumbing to overcome the problem of hepatitis B, is very significant. In addition, all the expert advice that I have received from the people presently treating our patients in South Australia indicates that one of the most important factors in renal dialysis is an environment that is aesthetically pleasing. Most of our patients require dialysis for 6 to 8 hours a day, 3 days a week. The facility at Flynn Drive will be built adjacent to the south side of the existing entrance. The rooms will be located to provide a vista looking out over Mount Gillen and gum trees. Aesthetically, it will be very pleasing. Also, the experts consider that it will be very therapeutic.

I have considered all the factors. I am sure that the member for MacDonnell is aware of the correspondence I have received from the Aboriginal congress and various other organisations representing Aboriginal interests in Alice Springs which suggests that they will not be able to identify with the Flynn Drive Community Health Centre. I have taken the view - and I have advised the member for MacDonnell - that most of the patients for whom we will be providing the immediate service are now located in South Australia. Because of absolute need, they must utilise the services of major South Australian hospitals. I am sure that the community health centre at Alice

Springs will offer a far better alternative for those people. I reiterate that it is a community health function. It is important to assimilate people back into the general community.

#### Mobile Dental Care Service in Katherine Region

Mr McCARTHY to MINISTER for HEALTH

When will the mobile dental care service be reinstated in the Katherine region?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am sure that members present would share my concern that the provision of health services to people in remote areas, disadvantaged by the tyranny of distance, should be equal to those health services provided in the more populated areas. Recently, the Katherine Regional Health Service undertook a review. In all fairness, that review involved extensive consultation with remote communities and station owners in the Katherine region. It was proposed that the rural dental service be abandoned from the beginning of the dry season in March 1986. I am pleased to advise the member for Victoria River that, after considering his representations and those of the various people who will be affected by that decision, I have reinstated that service. The services should again be operating in the rural areas adjacent to Katherine from March 1986.

I am sure members are aware that this service does not normally operate in the wet season because of the impossibility of servicing some regions. However, I am assured by the Regional Director of Health in Katherine that, during the wet season, people from remote communities and rural areas have priority in obtaining appointments with the Katherine dental service.

#### Myilly Point Acquisitions

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Earlier this year, I placed a question on notice seeking financial information from the Chief Minister and Treasurer. The question was in 4 parts. I will not worry about the first 3. The fourth part asked: what is the total amount paid to date by the government for land acquisition in the Myilly Point area, have further amounts been committed and, if so, how much? The Chief Minister declined to answer that question on the specious ground of commercial confidentiality.

Could he now advise the Assembly how much public money has already been expended by the government on land acquisition in the Myilly Point area? How much public money has been firmly committed that is not subject to negotiation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I remember the Leader of the Opposition's question clearly, and I reject his statement that my response was specious. I do not have all the details at present but I will obtain them again and we will deal with them this afternoon or in the morning.

Mr B. Collins: In the same manner?



Mr TUXWORTH: I will obtain the response that I gave to the Leader of the Opposition and deal with it again because I reject his statement that I gave a specious reply.

#### TAB Progress

Mr DALE to CHIEF MINISTER

As we have just experienced our first Melbourne Cup with TAB in the Northern Territory, can he give the Assembly a report on the progress of TAB to date?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have reported to the Assembly on several occasions concerning the progress of the TAB. There has been a steady increase in the TAB turnover although there have been difficulties in relation to the technical side of the operation. On Melbourne Cup day, there was a malfunction with the computers in Canberra and it was not possible for all Northern Territory punters to place a bet before the cup. An hour before the race, the machines were working for 1 minute in 5. This was a source of great embarrassment to us all and resulted in a great loss of revenue. I have sought an assurance from the chairman of the Canberra TAB that such a failure will not happen again. It is not in our interest to be hooked into a system that will go to the wall every time a load like that is placed on it. You can bet your life, Mr Speaker, that every Melbourne Cup - and perhaps Caulfield Cup and a few other racing events - will put pressure on the system. We linked with the Canberra TAB because we were given undertakings that it could serve the needs of the Territory punter. Clearly, on cup day, that was not the case. It is a pity that so many of our locals took the hot blast from the irritated punters for something quite outside their control.

I would also like to deal with a matter raised by the member for Nhulunbuy during the week. This concerned the TAB agents receiving an increase in pay. This is a very important part of the TAB's operation and I believe his remarks reflected unfairly on the agents and the action of the government.

The arrangements that we had with the TAB agents for payment would have seen people in category A receiving about \$275 a week and those in category B \$223 a week. From that, they had to pay their own electricity bills, generally in the order of \$100 a week, and any wages that were incurred in the operation of the TAB agency. Clearly, when he has paid those overheads, there is not a lot of money left for the person running the agency. It was never the intention of the government to use TAB agents as sweated labour. I am sure the member for Nhulunbuy, who represents hard-working constituents, would agree.

I received representations from the Northern Territory TAB Agents Association as a result of an approach it made to the member for Wanguri. I was asked whether I would listen to its plea because its members were suffering hardship. When you look at the figures they were operating under, it is clear that they were suffering. As a result of representations and discussions with the TAB board members, it has been agreed to increase the payment to TAB agents considerably and to forgo payments for the hire of their terminals.

When it is all said and done, the agents in category A should receive about \$430 a week and those in category B about \$374 a week. Overheads for electricity and salaries still remain. At the end of the day, it will be very hard to argue that TAB agents are living off the fat of the land; they will be working very hard for their share of the cake. The TAB agents must pay \$13.24 an hour for casual staff, and that is not cheap. If you have a couple of people on your payroll for 4 or 5 hours a day on busy days, it would not take long to take up a fair amount of your weekly earnings. Also, the payments have been designed so that, when turnover reaches \$50 000 a week, they revert to a sliding scale which evens out the payments that are made to the TAB agents.

One thing that we have all accepted is that, to run the TAB in the Northern Territory as it is run in the states, everything depends on the technical success of the operation and the attitude of the Northern Territory punters to the changeover. The number of punters is increasing slowly and the turnover is increasing slowly week by week but, regrettably, not as fast as we would like. Certainly, the technical side of the operation has its problems and they are not due to lack of interest by TAB people, the providers of computer equipment or Telecom. They are very difficult problems which reflect the tyranny of distance that people in the Northern Territory must deal with.

However, on balance, the TAB is starting to settle down. By the end of next March, we should have a very good idea of the success of the operation and be able to put our plans into place and offer considerable support to the racing industry in the Northern Territory on the basis of the TAB's results.

#### Tidal Extremes and Harbour Planning

Mr FIRMIN to MINISTER for PORTS and FISHERIES

Mr Speaker, this week we will have a tidal range in the Darwin Harbour which will probably be the highest and the lowest for 10 years, with a tide of - 0.05m occurring on Thursday. What action is being taken by his department to take advantage of this tidal range for future planning of the harbour facilities for both commercial and recreational operations?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will address this question both as Minister for Ports and Fisheries and as Minister for Lands. As the member said, at 1.09 pm this Thursday, we will have the lowest tide for some considerable time: - 0.05 m. We do not know exactly how long it is since there has been such a low tide because the data base on tides changed in 1981. However, I am advised by people with local knowledge that it is 18 to 20 years since there has been a tide that low. Obviously, this will give us a marvellous opportunity to obtain some photographic information on the bed of the harbour, particularly around the major port development area and other areas that are likely to be developed, and to obtain an indication of the base and shifts that have occurred. The last time such evidence was taken was in 1982 when we had a tide of 0.01 m. The photographic record will give us information not only on the contours and base but also on shifts in sand dunes etc on the floor of the harbour.

Through the Department of Lands, we will be photographing the entire port aerially on a 1 to 50 000 scale and taking detailed photographs on a scale of 1 to 9000 of the main port area, primarily East Arm which is the major area we

are looking at for potential development of a fishing port in the Port of Darwin. It is also an area of which we have little knowledge. Very little survey work has been done on it in the past and it is relatively inaccessible to the normal functions of the Port Authority.

Subject to weather and cloud considerations, we will also be taking photographs on a scale of 1 to 9000 of as much as possible of the main port area, Frances Bay and Sadgroves Creek which are areas of current and future development. The photographs will be taken with 2 cameras, 1 using a coloured infra-red film and the other using black and white film. Combined with the information we gained in 1982, that will add considerably to our knowledge and our ability to plan the development of the port.

TAB Board

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

Does he recognise and respect the independence of the Northern Territory TAB board or will he continue to apply political direction to that board?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, all boards are responsible to ministers and if it is necessary from time to time for ministers to give instructions to boards for one reason or another, that should happen. In most cases, ministers really have little to do with their boards. In the case of the TAB agents, I asked that arrangements be made for their payment. It was my view that the agents were suffering hardship. There were matters that they could not resolve with the board and I did not see that it was necessary for people to continue in hardship while dialogue occurred. I was prepared to give instruction to that effect.

Darwin Airport

Mr FINCH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Given that the federal government's review of the upgrading of Darwin Airport terminal has been in Canberra for some 6 weeks and that the federal minister, Mr Morris, committed himself to making a decision by the end of October, is he aware of when Territorians can expect some action on this important project?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the short answer is no. I think it is worth while mentioning again the disappointment of all Territorians, especially those living in Darwin, at the steps that the Commonwealth government has taken since it stopped work on the development of the Darwin Airport terminal. We are all aware that our terminal was originally a World War 2 aircraft hangar. We are also aware of the terrible problems that Territorians and overseas visitors have when moving in and out of the terminal. I am quite upset with the situation as it now stands. I hope that the federal minister takes some action fairly quickly to let us know what the federal government intends in relation to the development of the Darwin Airport terminal. I have telexed the federal minister asking for some indication of what will occur. I will be making a full statement detailing exactly what has occurred since the last sittings in relation to this matter.

Child-care Regulations

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has the Department of Community Development yet developed child-care regulations to accompany the act which was introduced in April last year?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the answer is no. We are still operating on the regulations relating to the old act which require the approval of the minister. I can inform him that an officer from the Children's Services Bureau has now been assigned the task of developing regulations for the new act in consultation with the industry. That is proceeding. We believe that it will take 2 or 3 months. I will be able to advise the member of the new regulations, as well as some other interesting developments in the Children's Services Bureau, during the course of this sittings. The short answer is no. We are still operating under the old regulations. There must be ministerial approval of the regulations of the children's services centres which are currently operating.

Privatisation of Sections of the Prison System

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has he been able to study examples of the privatisation of sections of the prison system? If so, would he comment on their effectiveness?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it is well known in this Assembly that the member for Sadadeen is a private enterprise man and has been involved with the Adam Smith Society. He wears his tie very proudly at most Assembly sittings. The members for MacDonnell and Stuart are also free enterprise people. They believe that everything should be free as long as everybody else does the enterprise.

Mr B. COLLINS: A point of order, Mr Speaker! The question is completely out of order because it asked the minister for an opinion. It is not seeking information.

Mr SPEAKER: The question is in need of slight rephrasing. However, I will allow the minister to proceed with the answer.

Mr COULTER: Mr Speaker, privatisation of prisons is a fact of life in America. There are some 12 private institutions. However, I was told by federal authorities in Washington that there are some problems with privately-run prisons. It was interesting to note that, whilst I was in Tennessee, an overcrowding order was made by the High Court which said no more prisoners should be accepted into Tennessee jails. As a result of that, a private company was offered \$250m to take over the whole penitentiary system for that state.

Neither the United States nor Canada have the answers as to how privatisation should be conducted but they have isolated the issues involved in running private institutions. As I said, there are some 12 private institutions which are run on similar grounds to motels. They simply declare what a bed occupancy rate will be. Provided the state provides that occupancy

rate, people are willing to operate institutions. This has been happening in America for the last 20 years. They are trying to develop institutions into a real world situation. In fact, in some halfway houses, prisoners must pay board and lodgings from the wages that they receive whilst they are working in various industries. Some of them are released to industry for 6 to 8 hours a day. Some people are involved in the catering industry etc. The prison industry itself in America has become very sophisticated. In fact, some prisons are known as factories with fences - people are involved in all manner of industry. Some of them have first refusal on government contracts, in particular to the army. I saw them manufacturing helmets, bedding, clothing and shelving for various government organisations.

There is a move towards privatisation in terms of catering, dental care and health services right across Canada and the United States. In particular, in the juvenile justice system, non-profit organisations have been developed to take over juvenile detention centres. This has proved very successful. I will be making a statement during these sittings on some of the industries which we looked at.

In short, there is a move towards privatisation in America. Twelve prisons are privately operated. Prison industries are alive and well. People actually pay for board and lodgings in some institutions. I believe that the trend will accelerate as the American population increases. Its federal prison population rises at the rate of 1000 a week. In fact, its prison population has increased 50% since 1980. It is a cost burden which the community cannot support any longer.

It is time that we examined ways and means for prisoners to pay for their board and keep in our institutions. The costs are escalating. Presently, it is something like \$90 a day in the Northern Territory or \$32 000 a year per prisoner. The total cost is \$13m. There must be a better answer.

#### Liquor Act Review

Mr EDE to MINISTER for INDUSTRY and SMALL BUSINESS

I remind him that, during deliberations of this Assembly in August over our proposed amendments to provisions relating to restricted areas in the Liquor Act, and again earlier this month in answer to a question on notice from the Leader of the Opposition, he stated that there would be a review of all aspects of the restricted areas legislation. Given his acknowledgement of the importance of this matter when I raised it last year, can he provide more details regarding that review? Which organisation is carrying it out? Whom is it consulting? When is it to report? How long has it been deliberating? Does it in fact exist at all?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, at the last sittings, I indicated that the Liquor Commission would undertake to carry out a review of the restricted areas legislation. At this stage, the review has not commenced because I need an additional \$40 000 which I hope to obtain from my ministerial colleagues in the very near future. The Liquor Commissioner has prepared a submission for my consideration and, once I have considered its contents, I will pass it on to Cabinet for consideration.

Canadian Pacific Report on Railway

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER and TREASURER

Will he undertake to table for debate the final Canadian Pacific report which has formed the basis of his public commitment to commence construction of the project in January 1987?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I can advise the member that, before these sittings are concluded, the report will be tabled and 2 other reports will accompany it. They are financial assessments. There will be a statement and a debate on it. I invite the member to join the fray.

Financing of Alice Springs Sheraton Hotel

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

As we are now halfway through the 180-day bill for the temporary financing of the Alice Springs Sheraton Hotel, can the Chief Minister and Treasurer advise if the government has been successful in attracting equity participants in the Alice Springs Sheraton? I stress 'equity participants', not lenders.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, at the last sittings, I said that a group had been set up to review the whole of the Territory's contingent liabilities situation. That group is still working very actively on some of the options before us. No final decision has been taken or recommendation received in relation to the Alice Sheraton but I can say to members that the performance of the Alice Springs Sheraton is far exceeding any expectations that were anticipated at this stage. In fact, prospects for the Alice Sheraton are very good and, as soon as there is something final to report, I will be the first to say something.

Cost of Uluru Campaign

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What was the final cost, including travel, of the 3-week Uluru campaign?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, at the beginning of the campaign, I foreshadowed that it would cost in the order of \$200 000. The final accounts are not yet in but, as soon as they are available, I shall be happy to make all of those costs known to the member.

Petermann Mapping Project

Mr BELL to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Mr Speaker, I preface my question by reminding him of his refusal to follow departmental advice in respect of the Northern Territory Geological Survey's Petermann mapping project. Is it his intention to commence ground mapping activities associated with that project in 1986, 1987 or 1988?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I noticed from newspaper reports and from an unsigned and undated letter from the member for MacDonnell - I presume it was from him although perhaps it was someone else using his letterhead - on this subject that there has been a bit of a fuss over the last few weeks about the fact that the government chose by ministerial decision to proceed with a geophysical survey. It is an airborne survey of a south-western corner of the Northern Territory as part of an ongoing program which has been under way for some years now for preparing proper maps of the Northern Territory for mining and other purposes. Most of the states are decades ahead of the Northern Territory in their mapping programs. Understandably enough, it has only been since self-government that we have been able to devote particular resources to this important matter.

Officers approached Aboriginal landowners at Docker River and explained to them that it was proposed to collect data to compile the maps. The process involved flying fairly low, at a couple of hundred feet or so, by a plane on a grid and also the taking of some small surface samples by geologists and the like over the area so that a map could be compiled. I understand that the Aboriginal owners of this area declined permission for those activities to take place. Negotiations continued for a while without making very much progress. The department advised me that, because of contractual arrangements with people who undertake aerial surveys for the government, it was in a position to proceed with the aerial section of this survey over the land in question. However, the Aboriginal owners of the area were still declining to give permission. I instructed that the aerial component of the survey was to proceed. I did not consider it reasonable that Aboriginal ownership to land should extend to air space and that the government, in carrying out its normal responsibilities of administration, should be restricted from undertaking this type of activity. I understand that the activity did proceed and there was...

Mr Bell: You told them to.

Mr PERRON: Mr Speaker, I directed the department to proceed with the aerial section of the survey and I do not think that I implied that I did anything else.

Honourable members, and I am sure Aboriginals in some cases, should be aware that, these days, the gathering of information from the air is quite sophisticated. If we persist with a situation whereby landowners can refuse the government permission to fly an aeroplane over their land, we will end up in a situation where the Russians know more about us and our resources than we do. There is satellite technology today that is of such sophistication that hardly anything we do outdoors need be private any more. It is an important matter.

The member asked me if the ground component of this survey will proceed in the next indeterminate period. It certainly should. It is my intention that it will. It will require further negotiations with the landowners with a view to obtaining their permission. If the permission is not forthcoming, obviously I will need to look at the options open to me.

### School Bus Fares

Mr DALE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

The Leader of the Opposition raised the issue of school bus fares in the adjournment debate yesterday afternoon. Has the review that has been referred to been carried out as yet and, if so, when will he make public the guidelines for exemptions from the payment of bus fares?

ANSWER

I thank the member for his question. Before answering, I must say that the antics of the Leader of the Opposition never cease to amaze me. In one breath, he comments that this government is irresponsible and should be making sure that its finances are in shape and, in the next breath, he tells us not to worry about the \$2.5m which it costs us to bus students to schools in the Northern Territory and the fact that this cost is increasing. He has a hide to talk about hypocrisy in relation to this. The fact is that the cost of bussing children to schools has increased by 300% since 1979. It cost us in 1979-80 some \$800 000 to bus students to schools in the Northern Territory and that has escalated to over \$3m for the 1985-86 financial year.

It is also interesting to note that over 50% of the children attending schools in the Northern Territory are within 5 km of their designated schools. In fact, that distance is comparable to the 4.8 km that the Leader of the Opposition mentioned yesterday. He was correct when he said the only state that has a free bussing system outside 1.6 km is New South Wales. It costs the NSW government over \$100m a year to provide transportation for students to NSW schools. All I can say is that that money could be far better spent on education and not transportation. Indeed, the Minister for Education in the Labor state of NSW would very much like to put behind him the whole issue of the amount of money that must be paid from the education budget to transport NSW children.

The review has been carried out. It looked at all aspects of the phasing in of bus fares and examined the situation in the states. I think that it would be opportune at this time for me to inform the Assembly of interstate school transport arrangements. In NSW, there are free passes for students outside 1.6 km. NSW has a public transport system and not a school bus system as we have. The zoning is only for transport reasons. Queensland has free bus travel for students more than 4.8 km from a high school and more than 3.2 km from a primary school. It needs emphasising that inside that distance there is no transport assistance for students.

Mr B. Collins: No, that is what it means when it says 'outside'.

Mr HARRIS: Public transport is used. They do not have a school bus system, and zoning exists only for transport reasons. In South Australia, free travel is provided if the student lives more than 4.8 km from the nearest public school. Again, public transport is used. There is no separate school bussing system and zoning exists only for transport reasons. In the Australian Capital Territory, there is a fee of 30¢ per section travelled, to a maximum of 60¢. Again, public transport is used with no separate school bussing provisions, and zoning only applies for transport reasons. In Victoria, \$39 per term is levied for metropolitan areas and \$51 per term for inner suburbs. Again, the public transport system is used. Only secondary colleges are zoned. In Western Australia, there are fees of 70¢ a day or



35¢ a trip, and no charge applies for the rural area. A public transport system is in place there, with no zoning at all.

I might add that, during yesterday's adjournment debate, the Leader of the Opposition kept banging the desk and saying that no state required payment of more than 60¢. Straight away, I have mentioned 60¢ a day...

Mr B. Collins: I did not say that.

Mr HARRIS: He is great at fiddling with figures...

Mr B. Collins: Read the Hansard.

Mr HARRIS: ...as he is with words.

Mr B. Collins: You drongo.

Mr HARRIS: In Western Australia, as I said, public transport is used and there is no zoning at all. In Tasmania, there is a fee of \$3 per week or 40¢ per trip. The rural area is free. Public transport is used, with no zoning at all.

It is quite clear from these facts about transportation of schoolchildren in the states that we are out of kilter. Despite what the Leader of the Opposition says in relation to the Grants Commission, it is important that we make an effort. It is very difficult for us to argue cases...

Mr B. Collins: Hear, hear!

Mr HARRIS: ...that are different to the norm in the states. The Leader of the Opposition has not been fortunate enough...

Mr B. Collins: It's a great quote. I'll use that for a little while.

Mr HARRIS: ...to take part in Grants Commission deliberations in other states.

Mr B. Collins: Don't you believe it.

Mr HARRIS: No matter what he says, any effort that is made is acknowledged by the Grants Commission, and this effort will definitely benefit us.

The government was not trying to penalise people who live long distances from schools, and I have made that very clear. We were saying that those who live in close proximity to schools should rethink their transportation arrangements and use other means to get their children to school. We will continue to provide a bus service for those people but they will have to pay.

The money that the government uses to subsidise school bussing comes from the education budget. Last year, the cost of this service was \$2.75m. This money would have been much better spent in educating children, not transporting them. Most people have been responsive, and only about 10% of those who should be paying are not presently doing so. I thank the community for this effort.

The review was necessary because the principals were placed in the awkward position of deciding who should be exempt from the payment of bus fares. The interpretation was not clear, and I accept that. I am not going to close my eyes to concerns that are raised with me. The fact that I am prepared to look at the issue does not mean that the government is making policy on the run. That is not the situation at all. We are endeavouring to make sure that people who suffer hardship have the opportunity of making representation. As a result of the review, I will be spelling out the exact guidelines to be followed. Hopefully, that will happen in the next 3 weeks. An announcement will definitely be made before the end of the school year.

There are 2 further points that I wish to emphasise. The first is that I do not enjoy imposing costs on the public. No government member enjoys imposing costs on the public. However, it is responsible. We must make such decisions on occasions. I can assure him that the changes we have made are a direct result of the cutbacks that have been imposed by the Commonwealth government. That is fact. Whether he likes it or not, the Commonwealth has treated us poorly. We have had to respond accordingly, and we are willing to respond to that challenge.

My second point relates to the issue of states' rights. The Leader of the Opposition raised this issue. He drew a comparison between the cost of the Chief Minister's advertising campaign on the Ayers Rock handover and the cost of school bussing. I might say here that every state government - whether it is Liberal, National, coalition or Labor - is frightened stiff of this Commonwealth government's attitudes to states' rights. I can assure you and the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Speaker...

Mr B. COLLINS: A point of order, Mr Speaker! This was debated at length during the last sittings of the Legislative Assembly. I would have thought even those opposite would have learned by now that answers must be relevant to the questions asked. The question was specifically about bus fares for schoolchildren. This has nothing to do with Ayers Rock. Only those drongos could possibly make the link.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable Leader of the Opposition will withdraw his remarks. I find them highly disorderly.

Mr B. COLLINS: Which remarks, Mr Speaker?

Mr SPEAKER: The honourable Leader of the Opposition is being highly disorderly and, if he does not withdraw his remarks, I will have no hesitation in naming him.

Mr B. COLLINS: Mr Speaker, with respect...

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I name the honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Mr B. COLLINS: Mr Speaker, quite frankly, I think you are overreacting.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable member, resume your seat.

Mr B. COLLINS: Do I withdraw the point of order or which remarks? It is a perfectly reasonable question.

Mr SPEAKER: I have named the honourable Leader of the Opposition.

Mr B. COLLINS: That is ridiculous.

Mr ROBERTSON (Leader of Government Business): Mr Speaker, I have no alternative but to move that the honourable Leader of the Opposition be suspended from the service of the Assembly.

Motion agreed to; Leader of the Opposition suspended.

#### Alice Springs Sewage Farm

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What are the current details concerning the proposal to move the Alice Springs sewage farm? What is the proposed use for the current site and has he received representations from community groups concerning the possible use of the sewage water?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, Alice Springs' sewage has been treated in waste stabilisation lagoons at the commonage area south of the Heavitree Gap since the early 1960s. The treated effluent has been discharged into the Ilpapa swamp. The Department of Health's concerns about mosquitoes breeding in the swamp prompted Cabinet to endorse the strategy to treat sewage at the commonage and dispose of effluent by evaporation at the Brewer Estate which is south of the Roe Creek borefield.

The need to identify land for possible development purposes prompted the consideration of removal of all treatment from the commonage. The treatment of sewage at the commonage and the disposal of effluent into the Ilpapa Swamp causes problems with mosquito breeding in the swamp, quite disturbing odours, soil salinity problems and constraints on development alternatives. I think that all members are aware that Cabinet has endorsed a proposal to develop both the sewage treatment lagoons and the effluent evaporation basins in the Brewer Estate and to decommission completely all treatment lagoons in the commonage. Obviously, it will be subject to funding constraints but the government hopes that all the treatment lagoons will be decommissioned in the commonage area in 2 years' time.

Currently, there is an investigation under way into alternatives such as pipelines and pumping stations for the transmission of raw sewage to the Brewer Estate. We hope the results of the investigation will be available by the end of 1985. While this proposal involves high capital and operational maintenance costs, the proposed works will certainly free land in the commonage and White Gums area and enable the government to satisfy future demands for further development of Alice Springs.

In relation to requests from interested organisations regarding the use of the water from the treated effluent, no firm requests have been made to me. I am informed by the member for Braitling that this will occur soon. Obviously, the government will need to look at the cost involved to supply water from treated effluent and compare that with the cost of supplying water from normal water systems.

Trade Development Zone

Mr FINCH to MINISTER for INDUSTRY and SMALL BUSINESS

Following recent press announcements indicating the positive interest, both from within Australia and from overseas, in the proposed trade development zone for the Northern Territory, can he advise when construction of infrastructural works will commence and when we can possibly expect to see the first business set up in the zone?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, since the bill was passed earlier this year, tremendous interest has been expressed both from within Australia and overseas. In fact, last August, a delegation of 14 Hong Kong businessmen expressed an interest in setting up within the zone. As well, the Northern Territory government held a seminar in Hong Kong in late October. Some 150 Hong Kong businessmen attended that seminar. I was told by the Australian Trade Commission that it was one of the best-attended Australian seminars in Hong Kong for a number of years.

At this stage, we have a manufacturer who will manufacture textiles for export to Germany. We have a knitwear manufacturer setting up in the zone who will be distributing his products not only to the Australian market but also to the United States. We also have a plastics manufacturer and an adhesives manufacturer. More importantly, only yesterday, I was advised by the chairman of the zone authority that a watchmaker will establish his business in the zone.

To answer the member's question, I am hopeful that infrastructure will be in place by November of next year. Kinhill Sterns has designed a master plan to provide further information which will allow us to go to tender as soon as possible for the construction of the infrastructure inside the zone. It is very important that we move very quickly to have the infrastructure in place and operating. We are quite sure there are many people sitting back and waiting to see how quickly we move towards setting up the trade zone. I am hopeful that we may be in a position to turn the first bit of soil out there and commence construction early in March.

Rabbits in Central Australia

Mr VALE to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

Is he aware of press reports indicating that rabbits in the southern pastoral area of central Australia have now reached plague proportions? If he is aware of that problem, what steps are being taken by the various government departments to eradicate the problem?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am aware of the press reports and of the problems that are being created by the expansion of the rabbit population in central Australia. This has resulted from a number of years of very good weather in central Australia. It has provided an environment that has enabled the rabbit population to expand quite rapidly. The problem has been exacerbated in the last 12 months because significant areas of central Australia experienced drought conditions. The rabbits, along with fairly significant numbers of other feral animals such as donkeys, horses and camels, are competing with cattle for grasses and other pastures in central Australia.

Since 1979, the commission has recognised the threat of rabbits to the pastoral industry. It employed a consultant, Dr Lowe, for 3 years to investigate the extent of the problem and the cost benefits of control techniques suitable for the pastoral zone. The results of this consultancy have shown that the control measures that have been used successfully in temperate climates are not appropriate in central Australia. The species of mosquitoes required to spread myxomatosis is only occasionally present in sufficiently large numbers in central Australia and the other vector, the European rabbit flea, has a very low survival rate because it is unable to adapt to the hot, arid conditions.

However, it is likely that a new vector exists. It is a Spanish rabbit flea which exists in a climate similar to that in central Australia. This may well be the solution. Although it is not yet available in Australia, successful lobbying by the Northern Territory Conservation Commission, in conjunction with the CSIRO and the South Australian Vertebrate Pest Control Authority, has resulted in a program to enable the introduction of this Spanish flea. The Conservation Commission will be assisting the South Australian authorities in field testing the flea when it is brought into Australia within 12 months.

I might add that there have been some additional trials to measure the extent of damage of the rabbits in central Australia on a property situated south-west of Alice Springs. Some areas of country have been excluded from cattle but not excluded from rabbits to measure the extent of pressure that is being created specifically by the rabbits. A second area in close proximity has been excluded from both rabbits and cattle. This is giving our soil conservation people an excellent opportunity to measure the variable effects on pastures of cattle and rabbits. That will aid us in determining the economic effects of rabbits in central Australia.

#### Community Government Schemes

Mr McCARTHY to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Given the success of community government schemes in Aboriginal communities in the Territory, is he taking any steps to encourage more communities to examine the benefits of these schemes?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the member for Victoria River for asking this question today. I think it is very appropriate. I know he has been keen on promoting community government within his own electorate and I thank him for his efforts in that regard. As a result of his efforts, we will be tabling during this sittings the community government proposal for Elliott which is also within his electorate. There are in fact presently 6 community governments established within the Northern Territory and we have 7 active proposals at the moment. I spoke with the people from Wallace Rock Hole yesterday, the Abbott family, and they are very keen to move towards community government. On Friday morning, I had breakfast with the federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and departmental heads from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. I spoke with them about the moves for community government and some of the areas which are moving towards community government. It is interesting to note that the 3 original community government areas - Lajamanu, Angurugu and Milikapiti - have addressed the responsibilities of providing community government and they are progressing very quickly indeed. As the minister

responsible for local government, it is my intention to accelerate this program of community government throughout the Northern Territory.

We have now tabled the Selph report which addressed the matter of providing local government facilities to Aboriginal communities. This has increased the need to provide such organisational infrastructure throughout the Northern Territory. If you look at the history of all the states, you will see that they were developed along the lines of the third tier of local government. I believe that this is the way that we should be heading in the Northern Territory.

I will make further announcements towards the end of this year on how I intend to accelerate that program. It was interesting that the members for MacDonnell and Stuart held a meeting recently with Aboriginal councils. I think the meeting was held on 18 September. I am unaware of the outcome of that meeting to discuss the formation of council associations.

That provision is also available under the Community Government Act. We have had talks with the Northern Territory Local Government Association on the formation of a body which could coordinate all the community government proposals that are before me and those proposals that are on the drawing board. People have made representations to their local members and to me personally to introduce a third tier of government throughout the various Aboriginal communities. I will be examining those reports.

If the central Australian community council association is established, with a mixture of associations and community councils etc, I believe it will provide a venue and a forum for Aboriginal councils to become involved in the provision of services to the people who live within their immediate town areas. I believe that this program should be promoted and developed wherever possible. As I said before, after talking with the federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and various other people, I am convinced that this is the way we should head. I will be making further announcements before the end of this year on how we can accelerate the formation of community governments throughout the Northern Territory.

#### Speaker's Attendance at Parliamentary CLP Meetings

Mr SMITH to Mr SPEAKER

Do you, as a regular practice, attend meetings of the parliamentary Country Liberal Party?

ANSWER

The answer is yes.

#### Alice Springs Town Council Boundaries

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has he examined the proposal by the Alice Springs Town Council to extend its boundaries, and can he advise his attitude to this proposal?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I know of no other subject that can generate as much interest and emotion in the Northern Territory as local government can. Education would run a close second.

The question of extending town council boundaries in Alice Springs has been brought to my attention. The Alice Springs Town Council seems to be engaged in some sort of cost cutting exercise. It sent me its first proposal courtesy of the Centralian Advocate. Apparently, it opted to do business by conducting some sort of media campaign which left little room for me to consult with the people most affected: the people in the farm area in the member for Flynn's electorate. I attended meetings this year which were arranged by Mr Geoff Sutton and the member for Flynn. Their purpose was to address the problem of local government in the farm area. Those meetings were fruitful because those people realised they must contribute in some way towards the cost of local government services within their area. The proposal that I have received from the Alice Springs Town Council is simply that: a proposal. There needs to be a detailed consultative process put in train to seek the opinions of the people within the areas that will be affected. I remind members that this year I refused to implement an extension of the Darwin City Council boundaries out to the 1945 acquisition line for those very reasons.

I intend to visit and talk with the people in the farm area. Public meetings have been arranged. I understand there are some 540 residents out there and possibly as many as 2000 residents when one takes into account caravan parks etc that would be affected. They wish to contribute to municipal-type services. I am not sure yet their feelings are. As I said, I intend to talk with them about what services they require and what form of contribution they believe they should make to the Alice Springs Town Council. They may not require elaborate services. They might opt for representation or a rating system similar to that which has been implemented in the Shire of Litchfield. All those options must be explored. It is early days. I do not intend to take the Alice Springs Town Council's proposal as the final proposal without consulting with the people in the farm area. I believe that is important.

I believe that I have demonstrated my commitment to go to the people and seek their views. I think members of the council are a little bit confused. They believed they had to make a proposal which would be the sole proposal, and that then they would go to the people to explain just what they would be getting. I can assure members, in particular those members from around Alice Springs, that that is not the case. In the near future, I shall be attending the public meetings which have been organised by Mr Geoff Sutton and the member for Flynn and, as a result of those meetings, I will then make my decision on the extension of the Alice Springs town boundaries.

Enforcement of Plumbers and Drainers Licensing Act

Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware that the Plumbers and Drainers Licensing Act, including those sections which provide penalties for work being done by unlicensed persons and thus provide legislative protection for the public, has no application in Nhulunbuy and, if he is aware of it, what does he intend to do about it?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am unaware of the details that the member has stated, but most certainly I will examine the matter and report back to him.

Subdivisions in Darwin Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS

I know he is aware of my concern regarding an increase in the number of applications for subdivision below 5 acres of RL1 land in the rural area. What action is he taking to preserve the rural status quo and the expectations of current block owners for the continuance of their current lifestyle?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the issue of the further subdivision of RL1 below 2 ha has been a point of some serious contention in the rural area. I have had numerous representations from the member for Koolpinyah, as well as from other persons in the Darwin rural area on this question. We are in the process of preparing a structure plan for the Darwin rural area and, rather than let the matter get out of hand, last week I declared a moratorium on further subdivision of RL1 land in the Darwin Rural Area Planning Area to prevent any further subdivision until such time as full and comprehensive consideration has been given to the issue to ensure that any consideration of subdivisions in the rural area of less than 2 ha is undertaken comprehensively in the context of the entire rural area. There are a number of competing ideas and they should be thought through properly and undergo the process of consultation and consideration by our planning people. There should be structured planning. I will be holding that line until such time as the structured planning process is completed. It is under way now.

There are a number of other areas in the rural area that need to be addressed. One is the development of village centres. Obviously, it is proposed that subdivisions in those village centres would be less than 2 ha. The moratorium would not restrict the development of those village centres. We are looking at ways to facilitate those developments. Obviously, one way is through capital works programming. Another is to follow through the private development of village areas wherever possible. There are proposals now before the department for areas such as Bees Creek to undergo those sorts of developments. I believe that will get on top of the problems.

Department of Education Property

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In the Auditor-General's report, it says that the Department of Education wrote off property to the value of \$118 409. What property was written off in the last financial year?

ANSWER

I ask the member to place the question on notice.



### Concert at Myilly Point

Mr SETTER to MINISTER for LANDS

Why was an application for temporary use for the staging of a music and drama concert at Flagstaff Park on Myilly Point refused?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, there has been some concern expressed in letters to the newspaper on this matter. It really should be put to bed. The fact is that an application had been made with the Department of Lands to hold a concert in the park at the end of Myilly Point this coming Saturday, 16 November. There were a number of problems with that. I understand the particular organisation has been offered a number of alternative sites. Concern was expressed by the Department of Lands that it would be an inappropriate use of the land because it is a residential area. In particular, there would be excessive noise. Another concern was the lack of adequate services, such as power, water and toilets. There was also concern about possible danger to visitors because of the exposed cliffs in the area. The old Darwin Hospital site was the suggested car-parking area, and visitors would have access to the area via Myilly Terrace and the residential area. For it to be halfway successful, a considerable volume of pedestrian traffic would need to move backwards and forwards along a dead end street, through the day and well into the evening. Litter disposal along the cliff face near the sea was also a potential problem. The most important consideration was the fact that there are far more suitable concert grounds available; for example, the amphitheatre, Mindil Beach, the gun turret at East Point and numerous other sites around Darwin where these problems could be avoided.

These matters were discussed with the applicants. They proposed to hold a music and drama theatre on the site with particular reference to young people. It is an excellent concept and I for one support the idea. To give an indication of my non-opposition, I point out that my wife intends to dance at that particular function this weekend.

However, the proposal includes stage, marquee, public address system, bar facilities, creche, portable toilets, food stalls, lighting, security and parking attendants. There were some financial problems but I believe they have been sorted out. An alternative site has been proposed by the promoters. It will be proceeding now at Mindil Beach which will overcome the many problems that existed with the Myilly Point site. It is a far more suitable site for such an activity.

Unfortunately for the organisers, this particular concert is clashing with another concert being held by young people in Darwin at the Marrara stadium this Saturday night: the Tropical Aid for Africa Concert. With a bit of coordination between organisations, such a clash could have been avoided because both have value. It is really a shame for the young people in this International Year of Youth.

### Casuarina High School Amenities

Mr FINCH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Given the high level of expectation regarding the introduction of the secondary college system, what facilities are to be provided at Casuarina High

School prior to and during 1986 and what amenities will be provided in the long term for this important project?

ANSWER

I thank the member for his question. Many members of this Assembly are following this issue with a great deal of interest, and rightly so. I shall commence by emphasising that there will be no secondary colleges in Darwin until 1988. The first secondary college will be in Alice Springs in 1987. The member will be aware that the working party which investigated the high school and secondary college issue recommended that 3 committees be formed. One is in the process of considering the staffing issue. Another is considering the interface between the school, the Darwin Institute of Technology and TAFE. The third committee is monitoring the development of the high school and secondary college system, which includes an investigation of the need for the establishment of a secondary college in Palmerston or the rural area.

The process of phasing in secondary colleges begins next year. This will entail provision of facilities. In many cases, demountables will be required to accommodate initial enrolments. Additional facilities at Casuarina will facilitate the development of translator, interpreter and tourism courses. Those facilities are presently under way. New facilities are also being provided at Darwin High School. These will enable courses in electronics, computing and automotive studies, along with several others, to commence as quickly as possible.

The government does not intend to approach this problem in an ad hoc fashion. We do not want to see a whole school comprised of demountables. Casuarina is an old school. It was built in the early 1970s. It was designed as a high school and it was not built to cater for a secondary college. That problem has been addressed by the government. Casuarina is very similar to the Dickson College in Hobart, which is also an old school which was built for a different purpose. Over a period of 3 to 4 years, it was upgraded to become a secondary college. This is our intention with Casuarina. We intend to make sure that it is not a college put together on an ad hoc basis. We intend it to be the Northern Territory's secondary college, and we will ensure its facilities give it that status.

The timing of developmental works on the facilities at Casuarina is important. I emphasise again that the secondary college at Casuarina is not due to be in full swing until 1988. I am sure the member for Wagaman is aware that we are considering the possibility of bringing forward work on facilities at Casuarina. I am having discussions with the Minister for Transport and Works in relation to this. The member would also know that the school council and other people will be playing a very important role. We are looking at it in a responsible manner. I can assure the member that Casuarina High School will become a secondary high school of note. It will not be just a lean-to secondary college. I will be keeping the Assembly informed of progress, and I hope to be able to provide more concrete information later at these sittings.

#### TIO Legislation

Mr SMITH to TREASURER

In his reports the Auditor-General has again criticised the TIO legislation, which enables the TIO board to appoint its own auditor on an

annual basis. In fact, the Auditor-General said that the annual appointment runs contrary to the perception of independence of the auditor. In light of those comments, which have been made in successive years by 2 different auditors-general, will the government undertake to alter the TIO act to bring it into line with legislation in other states and to place it under the ambit of the Auditor-General?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the point raised by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is one that has not gone unnoticed by myself and government members. For obvious reasons, it has certainly been dealt with over the years. It raises the question of whether a statutory body, operating independently of the government as a business, should be under the scrutiny of the Auditor-General. There is argument for and against that. As recently as last week, the chairman of the TIO board and others put a case both for and against the proposal that the TIO be audited by the Auditor-General.

We have discussed before in the Assembly the role of the TIO and its independence from the government in a commercial sense. As far as possible, we allow the TIO board to make independent decisions - on investments, portfolio arrangements, premiums and the things it insures - on a commercial basis because it is running a commercial enterprise. Also, the board has the power under its act to appoint its own auditor and it has appointed auditors for the past couple of years. So far as I can see, they have been doing the job well. There have not been any complaints and there has been no challenge to the work of the auditors over the last couple of years. In fact, the board has recommended that the auditors be reappointed for another term.

If there had been any deficiency in the way the system has been working or in the role that the auditors have taken, then we may have had to look at the involvement of the Auditor-General. However, there appears to be no obvious imperfection in the way the system is working at the moment, and that fact raises the question of why, after a commercial audit of the TIO, the Auditor-General need do the work again. The obvious solution is that, if we do not believe that we should have the TIO operating commercially with its own private auditors, then we should dispense with one set of auditors and replace them with another. But let us not go through the charade of having a commercial operation, audited in every business sense by private auditors and then subject it to a second audit. I fail to see the common sense...

Mr Smith: I am not saying that at all.

Mr TUXWORTH: Mr Speaker, I am just putting before the member the various options that have been canvassed in relation to this issue because it is not just a simple matter of asking why the Northern Territory Auditor-General does not audit the TIO.

Mr Smith: Yes it is.

Mr TUXWORTH: If that is the case, then let me track that through and ask why we want private auditors at all? That must be answered too. In the beginning, when the TIO was set up, we believed that it should be audited in a commercial sense by private auditors because that was a part of making it commercially independent.

In fairness to the member's question, which I am not dismissing as irrelevant or unnecessary, I am just saying that the situation is one which tests our minds from time to time and which we are looking at at the moment. If we see a need to change and comply with the views that the Auditor-General has put forward in his report, then we will take steps accordingly and I will announce that decision to the Assembly. In the meantime, the matter is still open for consideration.

#### Promotion for Buffalo Industry

Mr PALMER to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What action is the Northern Territory government taking to promote the buffalo industry in the Territory?

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I draw your attention to the Standing Orders. In answering those sorts of questions, would ministers please observe the general rules under standing order 112. There is a facility for making statements about such policy matters.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will answer the question this way. As I announced yesterday in my response to the budget, the Northern Territory government has established a study into the buffalo industry in the Northern Territory to ensure that we can plan for the future of that industry. For some years now, concern has been expressed by the community and the industry itself that, with the effects of the Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign, we may see the end of buffalo in the Northern Territory and the potential destruction of an existing industry in the Territory.

The Assembly has been advised previously of the work of this government in developing a buffalo domestication program in the Northern Territory. Some work has already commenced on the development of buffalo blocks on what was Point Stuart Station. I understand that there are now some 12 000 head of buffalo behind wire in a domestication program, and that includes some 7000 breeding females. Currently, 15 properties intend to run domesticated buffalo, and it is expected that a total of 30 000 head will be behind wire at the end of 1986, including some 9000 breeders.

Over the next 3 years, the expected total cost of extra yards, fences, water supplies and access roads should represent in the order of \$1.25m of investment. An economic assessment of buffalo production indicates that this is quite a viable industry if part of the turn-off is sold to high price specialty markets; for example, current live export breeders into the South-east Asian area.

A consultancy on buffalo industry development is being established and, as I announced yesterday, funds have been made available in this year's budget. The Buffalo Industry Task Force was established in June of this year and has replaced the Buffalo Working Party. I have held a meeting to establish terms of reference and the task force has also looked at marketing strategies for premium products within Australia. For example, the Department of Primary Production has arranged trial slaughtering of yearling buffaloes to test interstate market potential for high quality buffalo meat. Feedback suggests that the product was well received and potential existed to develop markets further.

I believe that the buffalo industry has quite a good and growing potential for the future, I have asked specifically that this task force carry out an investigation of land availability, in the coastal areas of the Northern Territory in particular, to identify future areas where we may be able to develop other buffalo blocks to allow this industry to expand and obtain the maximum value possible for the Northern Territory.

Auditor-General's Report on Treasurer's Financial Statement for 1984-85

Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

The Auditor-General has raised, as a matter of concern, the prolonged finalisation process which occurred in respect of the 1984-85 Treasurer's Annual Financial Statement in general and statement 6 on contingent liabilities in particular. The Auditor-General has argued that this has been caused partially by procrastination on the part of some providers of information. What communication has he had with the Auditor-General, firstly, to ascertain the nature of this procrastination and, secondly, to identify those departments or authorities to which this serious charge applies?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am more than happy to obtain that information and provide it for the member later in the sittings.

Warrego Mine

Mr EDE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

I refer to a question that I placed on notice soon after the last sittings seeking information on mercury levels and enforcement of safety procedures at Warrego Mine. Is he prepared to undertake to provide me with answers to the questions raised before this Assembly sits next week?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, unfortunately, I do not recall the question to which the member referred but no doubt it is on the question paper, and there have been some weeks for the department to prepare the necessary responses. I will seek information on the matter today with a view to doing my very best to have it before him during the course of these sittings.

ANSTI Land Application

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS

What is the current situation regarding the application for the block of land in the rural area by the ANSTI group?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, ANSTI is an organisation known as A New Start To Independence. It has applied for land to develop premises to assist people who have undertaken alcohol rehabilitation programs as a further process towards their re-establishment and, if I can use the term, their normalisation back into society. It is a very worthwhile program. They have applied for land in the Darwin rural area.

On behalf of constituents, the member has expressed concerns at some of the areas for which application has been made. I am advised that negotiations are in progress between the Department of Lands and the organisation. They are currently looking at a site near the Rural Old Timers' building in the Bees Creek area with a buffer zone being provided between the Rural Old Timers and the proposed buildings which would be sited well back from Bees Creek Road. I do not have any firmer details than that but I understand that the area proposed in the proximity of the Taminmin High School is no longer being proceeded with.

I have previously advised the member of other suggested areas and I thank her for the assistance she has given me on this very sensitive and difficult issue. She has shown me around her electorate, which gave the department the opportunity to look at a range of alternative sites and assisted considerably in resolving this problem.

Child-care Funding Arrangements

Mr DALE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has the minister been able to determine the effects on the Northern Territory of the new Commonwealth child-care funding arrangements?

ANSWER

The total cost of the federal government's decision to cut back funding to child-care facilities throughout Australia has not yet been fully ascertained. However, I can tell members that, as usual, the federal message-stick that has been passed down to us contains nothing but bad news. I am at a loss as to why this has happened because the federal government and Senator Grimes were on a winner with their commitment to child-care facilities throughout Australia. The large budget which the senator had fought for in order to achieve improved child-care facilities was admirable. In fact, at various ministerial meetings that I have attended during the year, the good senator received nothing but accolades for his initiatives. He had fought hard and developed some excellent policies in the area of child-care. However, it seems that the carnival is over. So many federal Labor policies seem to end this way.

In simple terms, the funding cuts mean that child-care fees at Commonwealth-funded centres will increase by a minimum of \$10 per week per child for full-time care, increasing the average fee to between \$62 and \$65 per week per child. Commonwealth-funded centres provide about one-third of the child-care facilities in the Northern Territory. It is not terribly well timed in terms of current economic conditions. I believe it could be the start of the precipice. We have been going downhill for some time and I believe that Commonwealth funding for these types of facilities will decline further. I think its social welfare program may also alter over the coming months, and it will be interesting to see just what happens to children's services.

Another unfortunate side effect of the announcement is that the change from salary subsidy to per-place, per-week funding removes the previous onus on services to employ pre-school teachers and nursing sisters to attract the subsidy. This means that there is no longer any requirement for a minimum number of qualified staff in a child-care centre unless such a requirement is incorporated into the Territory licensing requirements.

The impact of the increased fees may well be that the parents will have to leave the work force. The cost of obtaining child-care is now \$65 a week, and that is for one child only. If you happen to have a couple of kids, it does not pay you to remain in the work force. I am particularly disappointed at the federal government's new policy. I believe that Senator Grimes was on a winner. He had allocated something like \$180m towards child-care facilities throughout Australia at the beginning of this year, and we have seen a 180° turnaround. Perhaps it is not all his fault. Perhaps it is the federal ALP Cabinet which has turned the tables but, unfortunately, I must advise members that we are in for hard times in terms of providing child-care facilities funded by the Commonwealth government. The Northern Territory and New South Wales governments provide an additional 20% subsidy, but the other states will be in a worse predicament. The Northern Territory will be in front but only just.

Statement of Public Accounts

Mr SMITH to TREASURER

In light of comments in the Auditor-General's report, can he inform the Assembly when the statement of public accounts for the 3 months ending 30 September 1985 will be published and can he explain why we are now experiencing increasing delays in the publication of these public accounts?

ANSWER

I assume the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is referring to statement 6. Is that correct?

Mr Smith: No. The 3-monthly statement of public accounts.

Mr TUXWORTH: I will have to check whether it is the document he is talking about, but I can inform him that statement 6 is about to be published and will be tabled on Tuesday or Wednesday next week.

Land for Grain Production

Mr McCARTHY to MINISTER FOR PRIMARY PRODUCTION

The Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority recently advertised for people interested in purchasing blocks of land suitable for grain production in Mataranka and the Douglas-Daly area. What is the current situation regarding applications for these blocks?

ANSWER

The success of the ADMA projects has been such that field-crop production is now becoming quite an established industry in the Northern Territory. It has reached the point where 2 of the project farmers in the Douglas-Daly area have purchased their farms and are now operating privately. The success of the marketing activities of ADMA is such that it has virtually captured the entire local stockfeed market in the Northern Territory. That market is expanding because of other activities in the primary production area. The effect is that the demand for grain in the Northern Territory exceeds current production levels.

To meet this, ADMA recently released 4 blocks for tender. There is a proposal to release 3 blocks in the Douglas-Daly area and 2 blocks on land which is owned by ADMA and which was previously Mataranka Station. We recently released 2 blocks at Mataranka and 2 blocks at Douglas-Daly for tender. I can advise also that, with the growth and development occurring in horticulture, we will be releasing very shortly the first 4 of an eventual 20 horticultural blocks on Mataranka Station to provide land for the expansion of our horticultural industry in the Northern Territory.

In respect of the 4 blocks to be released, we have received 8 separate tenders, 5 from within the Northern Territory and 3 from interstate. Those tenders are only in respect of 3 blocks. We received no tenders in respect of the fourth block. I will deal with that in a moment. Interviews have been conducted with all of the tenderers by a panel of representatives from ADMA, the Department of Lands, the Department of Primary Production and the Northern Territory Grain Growers' Association. They have been completed and I have



recommended release of the blocks to the successful applicants. I am pleased to advise the Assembly that on 12 November of this year I approved the offer of leases for 3 of those blocks. They have subsequently been forwarded to the 3 selected tenderers.

The fourth block was the most developed and therefore the most expensive block on offer. It did not attract any applicants. That was partially because of the effects of taxation regulations. The more developed a block, the less taxation concessions and benefits that are available. One could be forgiven for saying that it is another example of the stifling effects of some of the Commonwealth government's taxation package, which includes capital gains tax proposals and much reduced taxation incentives for the primary producer, that we have difficulty in selling the best block. That is unfortunate.

I mentioned that there is a third block at Douglas-Daly: the Flemming block. That has been deferred for planning reasons. Recently, I announced publicly that we are investigating the establishment of a town in the Douglas-Daly area. Such is the success of that area that we need now to start planning for the future of a small town centre to service the growing grain production area in the Douglas-Daly region. When we have finalised the layout and design for the area to be set aside for the town, we will then be in a position to release the Flemming block onto the market. We will be doing so. I can assure members that there is no problem with any grain production from that area that would prevent it from being sold successfully through the growing market for stockfeed in the Northern Territory.

#### IPTAAS

Mr FINCH to MINISTER for HEALTH

Why is it that Territorians requiring interstate specialist treatment for medical conditions do not have equal access to the best possible treatment in any interstate capital under the federal IPTAAS scheme?

ANSWER

The Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme has been in operation for quite a while. It was the initiative of a previous government, and it has certainly been carried on. I am sorry to hear such derision from the opposition benches as to the importance of IPTAAS to Territorians because many Territorians live in isolated areas. But it does not relate only to isolated people; it also relates to every single Territorian because IPTAAS happens to serve those Territorians who are in need of very specialist medical attention - such as treatment for heart disease or liver and kidney transplants.

Mr Smith: We don't want your news release. We know that.

Mr HANRAHAN: Sure, you know it all. But maybe, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you would like to tell us why Northern Territory people are so disadvantaged.

Mr BELL: A point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is the point of order?

Mr BELL: I would appreciate it very much if you would point out to the Minister for Health that he really is obliged under standing orders to direct his comments, be they to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition or anyone else in this Assembly, through yourself, Sir.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr HANRAHAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank the member for MacDonnell for his sudden interest in standing orders. Might I suggest just quietly that his interest is not in the interests of the best service of this Assembly. We are talking about the Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme. There are very particular reasons why Territorians as a whole are disadvantaged. My colleague, the Deputy Chief Minister, wrote in 1983 to the Commonwealth Minister for Health to highlight some of the particular wording of the agreement that disadvantages all Territorians. It is pretty simple. IPTAAS has eligibility criteria. The wording is: 'being referred by a medical or dental practitioner to the nearest suitable specialist'. 'The nearest suitable specialist' is something that we have been trying to change for some considerable time. We put a proposition to the Commonwealth government as far back as 1983 to overcome some very specific difficulties that relate to the people of the Northern Territory.

The Commonwealth scheme allows people to consult a specialist in Adelaide, Perth or Brisbane. We have proposed to the Commonwealth Minister for Health that people should be allowed to travel at their own expense to Sydney, Melbourne or any major centre in Australia that has the specialist service that they require. The federal minister cannot find his way clear to alter IPTAAS to allow people to travel to centres other than those specified so we suggested that the people who require that specialist service could pay for it themselves. Let us be serious. There are many people in the Northern Territory who would like to go to Melbourne or Sydney for treatment for heart, kidney or liver disease. The cost benefits to IPTAAS and the Northern Territory government are obvious. How many people in the Northern Territory, whether they live in a major centre or out in the country, have relatives in Melbourne or Sydney who are able to accommodate them? They would be able to have the comfort of their relatives. It is a simple alteration that we have requested from the Commonwealth Minister for Health. My point is that Territorians are disadvantaged.

Mr Bell: Why?

Mr HANRAHAN: I hear the cry, 'why'. We are suggesting that the alteration to the agreement specify that the people who require the service will pay the additional cost. Members would be surprised at the number of people who, because of the need for particular specialist treatment, are forced to go to Perth, Adelaide or Brisbane as the agreement dictates. All we are asking for is a simple agreement.

As a government, we originally wrote to the Commonwealth in December 1983. We corresponded again in October last year and I corresponded yesterday asking for a response from the federal Minister for Health that such an arrangement would be implemented. As a result of those inquiries, the Australian Health Ministers' Conference has instituted an inquiry into IPTAAS. It is important that people realise what its terms of reference are. They include a rationalisation of patient transport, including provision for accommodation for patients as well as for accompanying relatives. Members would be aware that, if people go out of Alice Springs or Darwin on a stretcher, they usually

do not go by themselves. Usually, their loved ones accompany them. Why should it be dictated to them that they must go to Brisbane, Adelaide or Perth because of the mechanics of a past agreement? That disadvantages the people concerned, especially if their relatives live in major medical centres such as Sydney or Melbourne. The result is that people are forced to pay for that service themselves because of the simple dictates of an agreement that is 100% bureaucratic. The second term of reference relates to the provision for interstate transport of patients for super-specialist services such as heart and liver transplants.

The working party includes representatives from the Northern Territory Department of Health. It has been deliberating for a considerable time. It has made recommendations to the federal Minister for Health. If members of the opposition say that the existing agreement does not prevent people from receiving health care and specialist service in the best way - and we are talking about having the comfort of relatives - then they do so at their own peril. We have written to the federal Minister for Health. I am still waiting for a reply after 2½ years and, I might add, an assurance from the federal Minister for Health that such an amendment will be made. I wrote again yesterday and I hope I do not have to wait until 1986 for an answer.

#### Industrial Action by Lajamanu Teaching Staff

Mr EDE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is he aware that the teaching staff at Lajamanu have become so frustrated in their thwarted attempts to counter the misinformation he has been spreading and to have their case for maintenance of their band-4 status heard that they have been forced to take industrial action today, and will he undertake to carry out a genuine on-the-ground review of their case and report to this Assembly?

ANSWER

I am not sure of the form of misinformation to which the member is referring. I met with a deputation from Lajamanu about 2 weeks ago and I told it at that time that the programs that it was concerned about were not at risk. The 2 programs it was talking about were the RATE program and the bilingual program.

For the benefit of the member, I will read into Hansard a letter that I have sent to some of the students at Lajamanu. I might say that it does not help to have the Northern Territory Teachers Federation talking about industrial action and sending telexes to me about this issue. I have made it very clear in this Assembly in relation to staffing in Aboriginal schools that the issue of the banding of schools relates solely to attendance at schools. I shall address that matter later during these sittings. During the last sittings, I started to address the matter of the staffing in Aboriginal schools and I shall continue that later today. However, this is the letter I have sent:

'I am writing to you in reply to your letter of 2 October 1985 in which you express your concern about the reclassification of Lajamanu School and the continuation of the RATE program next year. Let me assure you I am confident that the RATE program at Lajamanu School will continue in 1986 and that you will be able to continue towards your goal of becoming qualified teachers.'

I must point out to you that Lajamanu will be staffed according to its entitlement in 1986. This is based on student attendance during 1985 rather than enrolment. While enrolment rose this year from 168 in February to 181 in September, attendance in the same period fell from an average of 132 to 112 students. This rate of attendance should entitle Lajamanu to 10 teachers, including an adult educator, in 1986 - approximately 1 teacher for every 12 students at the present rate of attendance. This level of staffing should not require class sizes of more than 30 students.

Your letter also raised a number of other points which I would like to answer. On the question of contact between the principal and the community, I am sure you realise that this is something all principals must do, regardless of the size of the school. Similarly, as an educational and professional leader, a school principal must, at times, take the place of absent teachers. This is especially the case in isolated schools where replacement teachers are not easily available.

Lajamanu is like other Aboriginal schools in having children who speak English as a second language. Similarly, hearing problems among students are found in other schools and, where these problems are significant, the Department of Education will provide specialist assistance. None of the matters referred to above determines whether the school has band-3 or band-4 status. A school's status is determined solely by student attendance...'.

I keep stressing that, Mr Deputy Speaker, but it does not get through to the members on the other side of the Assembly.

'Finally, while I agree that Lajamanu School has its own distinctive qualities, it does not qualify for special staffing entitlements in addition to those it already receives for the programs it runs; for example, the bilingual program. However, I can assure you that, if school attendance rises at Lajamanu, approximate adjustments will be made to the school staffing'.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I shall address this problem later today in the adjournment debate. I started to address it at the last sittings and I will continue this afternoon. However, I point out very clearly that the Northern Territory government makes provision for special circumstances at schools, but the issue of the banding of schools is one that the government is very firm on. We relate the matter solely to the attendance at schools.

#### Operation NOAH

Mr D.W. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

What were the results of Operation NOAH which was conducted yesterday?

ANSWER

Mr Deputy Speaker, Territorians would be aware that Operation NOAH, which was a one-day campaign, was conducted yesterday. I am happy to report that it was very successful. In the Northern Territory, 129 calls were received from people who rang the police and, on a rate per capita, the Northern Territory was well above the average for the states, and better than all states except Tasmania and the ACT.

The success of the operation was largely dependent upon the publicity that it received. It was most important that all Northern Territory communities were aware of Operation NOAH and that was achieved by virtue of the support we received from the Lions Clubs of the Northern Territory and the media generally.

I am sure that members would be pleased to know that the Lions Clubs of the Northern Territory between them distributed 47 000 pamphlets to homes and individuals throughout the Territory to make them aware of the campaign. We are also very grateful to the Northern Territory media, both electronic and printed, for the publicity that it gave the campaign at no cost to the community. That support is greatly appreciated.

A special thanks should also go to those members of the public who assisted with the provision of valuable information. I think it is important to emphasise that this type of information flow should not finish now. Wherever possible, we should encourage the community to continue to advise the police about goings on relating to drugs in the community. We have had numerous debates about the activities of drug dealers in the Northern Territory and the use of illegal drugs. I am sure we are all convinced that it is a very serious problem and one that is deleterious to our community.

We received 129 calls: 29 about cannabis; 2 about amphetamines; 1 about barbiturates; 7 about cocaine; 4 about hashish; 34 about heroin and another 89 calls with miscellaneous information about the drug scene. The types of offences that were suspected by the callers were as follows: 27 related to the cultivation of cannabis; 7 related to the importation of drugs; 114 related to dealing and trafficking in drugs; and 37 related to the use of drugs.

It is also commendable that, because of Operation NOAH, police seized 16 cannabis plants overnight. Certain people are now unexpectedly assisting police with their inquiries into these matters. In general, the whole program has been very successful and we are grateful for the support of the Northern Territory community.

#### Chamberlain Application

Mr PALMER to LEADER of GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

In view of the statements made by the Leader of the Opposition as to his views on the Chamberlain application, which views were made before the Solicitor-General's report to the Attorney-General, and in view of the fact that the Leader of the Opposition is otherwise indisposed, can he give some indication as to when it is proposed to bring on the statement by the Attorney-General for debate?

ANSWER

It is interesting that my colleague should ask that question. It has been suggested - and it appeared in a newspaper opinion recently - that there was some sort of government plot to get rid of the Leader of the Opposition from these sittings. Of course, that is far from the truth because we certainly welcome his presence here. I suppose there are some here who do not. One would certainly be the deputy leader because he wants his job and certainly Mr Barry Cavanagh because he cannot stand him.

Nonetheless, we have no desire to deprive the Leader of the Opposition of a chance to debate this matter. It is interesting to note that, contrary to what the newspaper speculated, at the Country Liberal Party parliamentary wing meeting on Monday, a conscious decision was taken to extend as much time as the Leader of the Opposition wanted for the purpose of this debate. Therefore, far be it from us to deny the Leader of the Opposition a chance to speak on it. We are willing to extend every courtesy to him so that he can enunciate and elaborate on the case as much as he wishes. However, because the Leader of the Opposition has quite consciously engineered himself out of this place on a 7-day holiday, if he is to have the opportunity to speak on it, one must of course wait till next Thursday to bring the matter on. That would be my intention. That way the Leader of the Opposition can have as much time to speak in this place as he will allow himself.

Rating for Shire of Litchfield

Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has he given any undertakings or commitments on the form of rating that will operate within the proposed Shire of Litchfield and, if so, what rating procedures will prevail?

ANSWER

Mr Deputy Speaker, I have given a great deal of time and effort to the subject of rating within the rural area. Indeed, the member for Koolpinyah has been involved in those discussions. I received a delegation during the last sittings which put to me a proposal for a flat-rate differential system based on RL1 and RL2 which are the planning zones with which the Minister for Lands would be well familiar. There will be some changes to the Local Government Act in the March sittings to enable a flat-rate system which is what the people in the area want. The decision has been arrived at after extensive consultation over a number of years in the rural area. Those amendments will come before the Assembly in March next year. In fact, the rating system will not come into being until July 1986. It will be approximately \$105 for the RL1 areas, which are the more densely-populated areas of the shire, and about \$50 for the RL2 areas. Amendments to the act are required to enable this to happen. They will be brought on during the March sittings.

Treasurer's Quarterly Financial Statement

Mr DALE to CHIEF MINISTER

Why has there been no Treasurer's quarterly financial statement published for the first quarter of this financial year?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I thank the member for his question. I do feel it is important to follow up because the Deputy Leader of the Opposition asked me this question last week. I thought he was referring to statement 6 and he was not. The answer is that there has been a delay in the publication of the first quarter's statements because of problems being experienced in the changeover of computerised ledger systems. These problems have made it impossible for the printer to stick to the usual time frame. I will be happy to table the statement this week. If the printer has not completed his work by Thursday, I will table signed photocopies for the benefit of members so that they have the information before them before the end of the sittings.

Judicial Inquiry into Ti Tree Shootings

Mr EDE to CHIEF MINISTER

The Chief Minister will recall the tragic events at Ti Tree in July 1980 when one Aboriginal man was killed and another seriously injured by police. Given that the Northern Territory government has now agreed to settle compensation rather than go to court, will he undertake to set up a judicial inquiry into the events surrounding the shooting, in particular, the criticism from the coroner of the police forensic examination and suggestions that the investigation was not conducted in accordance with proper police practice?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the member's question follows hot on the heels of a telex I received yesterday from central Australia, which was released to the media. My information this morning is that the contents of the telex that was sent to me and matters relating to the question that the member just asked are likely to become the subject of legal proceedings because they are defamatory. On those grounds, I will not be saying anything.

Taminmin High School Staff Deficiencies

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is he aware of deficiencies in establishment grants in 1983, 1984 and 1985 at Taminmin High School in relation to the appointment of band-2 ancillary staff? How will he redress this situation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am aware of the situation at Taminmin High School. It was my understanding that the matters the member refers to were resolved to the satisfaction of the school council and other members of that particular community. I have met with the chairman and other members of the Taminmin High School Council, in relation to a number of their concerns. I am also aware that the chairman of the Taminmin High School Council has contacted my

office recently in relation to the issues. I believe that he has been advised to contact my office again if he continues to have concerns.

All I can say now is that I understand that the issues have been addressed, and that the chairman is satisfied with the response from myself and the Department of Education. If not, then I urge him to take up the offer from my ministerial officer to contact my office again.

#### Ghan Preservation Society Grant

Mr VALE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

My question concerns the Ghan Preservation Society in Alice Springs. Has he yet had time to consider a request from the Ghan Preservation Society for a grant to purchase 2 narrow gauge diesel locomotives?

ANSWER

I have indeed had time to consider the request made by the member for Braitling who is well known for his interest in the preservation of rolling stock and railway components within the Alice Springs and central Australian area. In fact, a sum of \$16 000 has been allocated to the Ghan Preservation Society to continue the organisation's excellent project in Alice Springs. Those funds will be used to acquire 2 old narrow gauge locomotives which were used to pull the old Ghan service up the line to Alice Springs.

The member for Braitling is a valuable member of that organisation. I say that in all sincerity. He does quite a lot of work for grassroots organisations in Alice Springs. He really has gone out of his way to promote and develop this particular society. In pursuing this particular issue, he has been relentless. Telegrams have been flying to ensure that he gets the material that he needs to develop this particular project. The items are of historical interest and of railway significance and include the rolling stock and dining and passenger cars. He has also negotiated a peppercorn lease with ANR for at least 30 km of the old Ghan line. Perhaps we can utilise his services along with those of Canadian Pacific. I know the Chief Minister would be interested in having a man of his talents involved in this project. Perhaps later we can go a little further than the 30 km.

I understand that the first stage of this development that he is embarking on in conjunction with the Ghan Preservation Society will be open to the public by the middle of next year and the full 30 km line will be open in August 1988 - 59 years to the day since the first Ghan rolled in to Alice Springs. Once again, I believe it is a very worthwhile society and I am pleased to announce in the Assembly that we will be assisting that particular society with a cheque for \$16 000.

#### Judicial Inquiry into Ti Tree Shootings

Mr EDE to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to the Chief Minister's non-answer to my earlier question on the Ti Tree killing. I remind him that this matter has now been sub judice for over 5 years and this is the first opportunity the people have had to canvass the issues involved. Will he or will he not agree to instigate a judicial inquiry to examine these matters?



ANSWER

In answer to the member for Stuart, all I can say is what I said to him a moment ago: the contents of the telex that I received, the statements that have been made and the points he raised in his question are likely to become the subject of a legal action. If that makes it sub judice again for another 5 years, then that is a matter for the people who are making the statements and sending the telexes. I can only say to the member that, until the issue is resolved, I cannot help him.

#### Concessions to Students Studying Interstate

Mr McCARTHY to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will there be any review of the provisions currently available to Territory students, particularly those from remote areas, for the cost of travel to and from interstate schools and of any other concessions currently available to them from the Department of Education?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, members would be aware that I recently opened a conference of the Isolated Children's Parents Association. On that occasion, I mentioned that there was a need for us to review the assistance that was given to students in isolated communities. Most people are aware that the Northern Territory is able to provide educational services in the Northern Territory and that it is no longer necessary for students to go interstate. As we mature, it is necessary for us to look very closely at the assistance we have given to students travelling interstate. I made it very clear at the conference that the review that was being set up to examine this matter would involve all of those people who were directly affected. A decision has been made for the Isolated Children's Parents Association to be represented on that review panel.

All I can say is that a review will be carried out. Most people are aware that we are slowly providing all the educational facilities that are provided in the states. It is only right that we should review the assistance given to students travelling out of the Territory at the present time. I believe we should ensure that they receive assistance to come to the major Territory centres where the education facilities are provided but we will have to review the assistance for study interstate.

#### Government Assistance to Mudginberri Meatworks

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he confirm or deny that the Northern Territory government is giving financial assistance or defraying the legal costs of the court action being taken by the proprietor of the Mudginberri meatworks against the AMIEU?

ANSWER

Yes, the Northern Territory government is acting as guarantor in relation to the owner of the Mudginberri meatworks in the assault that is being made against him by the meatworkers union, and so we ought to. We have a situation where a handful of scallywags down south have moved into the Northern Territory with the express purpose of wiping out not only the industry but a man who has been contributing to the Northern Territory for a long time.

Mr Bell: Why doesn't the federal government defend the unions?

Mr TUXWORTH: Mr Speaker, I say for the benefit of the member for MacDonnell, who everybody knows would like to see the Mudginberri meatworks closed, that the Northern Territory government is very keen for buffalo abattoirs to continue operating.

The situation has been well canvassed around the country. There has been an absolute determination to ensure that the Mudginberri meatworks and its owner be wiped off the face of the Northern Territory because his deal with his employees was outside the wishes of the unions down south. They were determined to see that the precedent that he had established never flowed into the meat industry into the eastern states and, for that reason, he had to go. All sorts of tactics were used by federal ministers to ensure that the works could not kill, that the meat was not inspected and that, if it were inspected, it was not exported from the country.

We cannot stand by and watch the decimation of the Mudginberri meatworks because of the wishes of a few unionists down south who do not want to see the sorts of agreements that were established between Mr Pendarvis and his employees spread to the rest of Australia. It would be one thing if it was just a union assault on the Mudginberri meatworks, but it was not just a union assault: the government was in cahoots with the union up to pussy's bow. We had a situation whereby the federal minister would not direct his inspectors to enter the premises and carry out their lawful duties of inspecting meat for export kill. Because of the pressure being applied by the unions, they would not do it. Neither would the minister direct them to do it because they would have been in conflict with the unions if they had done so. We had a very sorry situation whereby 3 federal ministers, involved in primary industry, industrial relations and the management of a national park, were all siding with the union movement, and the meatworkers union in particular, in a concentrated effort to try to destroy the Mudginberri meatworks and its owner.

We were approached by the Mudginberri meatworks' owner to ask whether we would be guarantor for the product in store until the dispute was over and he had an opportunity to sell it. Negotiations are continuing for the sale of product. We believe that the product will be cleared at a reasonable price. If the federal Minister for Primary Industry would agree to have the meat inspected for export - even now after it has been in cold storage - and allow it to go out of the country tomorrow, the meatworks season will have been very successful because all the product will have been killed, the meatworks will have operated profitably and the money derived from the sale of the meat overseas will be available to the operator to meet his commitments. This is one of those very important occasions when the government does believe it was necessary and has supported as guarantor the operation of the Mudginberri meatworks for this season.

Whenever this sort of thing happens, we will have to consider similar action because, if we stand by and watch federal ministers continue to decimate the industry in the Northern Territory the way those 3 guys have in consultation and cahoots with the union, there will not be much left in the Northern Territory for us all to be working for.

Remote Commercial Television Service

Mr FIRMIN to CHIEF MINISTER

With the transmission of ABC television via the Homestead and Community Broadcast Satellite Service to remote and rural areas of the Northern Territory having commenced in preparation for the closing down of the INTELSAT relay, outback residents are particularly interested in who will deliver the Remote Commercial Television Service in the central zone. Can he indicate the current situation with respect to this issue?

ANSWER

I think it is fair to say that communications in the Northern Territory have come a long way in the last couple of years. It was only in March 1983 that the federal Minister for Communications was telling the people of Australia that we should not have a satellite because the country could not afford it, it was not necessary and Telecom could do the job. Today, we have the satellite and that is fantastic news for the Northern Territory; people right throughout the Australian community are now moving to pick up that technology and adapt it. In the Northern Territory, it provides some really challenging opportunities for Territorians. So far as the government is concerned, we have a very great problem with communicating with remote areas and there is an ideal opportunity now for us to have the Royal Flying Doctor Service, the School of the Air, normal internal government communications, the high speed transmission of data and a whole range of other services made available right throughout the Territory. People will not be prejudiced by distance.

There is also the opportunity now for Territorians to have access to other TV and radio stations besides the ABC. It would seem to us that the government is in a very good position. Because it must be involved in the satellite for its own reasons, it can say to people who are interested in the commercial aspects of the satellite that perhaps we should join together in some way to see that the costs are spread evenly and that the private sector is not forced out of the market simply because the economics of providing a signal to 140 000 people is not there.

For the Territory government, the options were pretty clear. Firstly, we could have gone it alone, done our own thing and let commercial television and radio look after themselves. In that case, they would probably not have the financial resources to be able to provide a signal. Secondly, we could have joined them in the use of common resources where necessary. The federal government has now determined that it will issue a licence for the central zone which takes in the Northern Territory and South Australia. It has called applications for people to hold the licence for that zone. The 2 applicants are the commercial station in Darwin, NTD8, and the CAAMA radio broadcast organisation from Alice Springs, the Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association. Both parties have a good argument to present to the tribunal to be able to be involved in holding a transmission licence. Both parties will have extreme difficulty in operating on their own. Without the expenditure of considerable money, it is just not possible for either one of them to provide a Northern Territory signal for Territorians in remote areas.

Up until now, the applicants in front of the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal have maintained a very independent position in that each one sees itself as being the licensed holder. From the Territory's point of view, that

presents problems. CAAMA is an organisation based around central Australian activity. If it were granted the licence, it would be expected - and we would be prepared to assist if that were possible - to provide a Northern Territory signal. On the other hand, if NTD8 gets the licence, it will be expected to provide a Northern Territory signal. That is not unreasonable. We would be prepared to help whoever the licence winner is.

The situation now is very simply this. I believe it is important for CAAMA and NTD8 to come together before the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal because, if they maintain their independent positions, we are likely to finish up with nothing. The simple facts are that CAAMA will not have the financial resources to be able to do the job that needs to be done for the number of hours that it would be likely to run in a week. That is just economic reality. Sad as it may seem, there is not much one can do about it. Channel 8, which is already well established with transmissions to Darwin, Gove and Jabiru, has an opportunity to expand its network at considerably less cost than CAAMA, and it probably has more expertise available.

In the utilisation of the satellite, I think it is essential that all Territorians have access to another signal besides the ABC. People in Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs are inclined to believe that the word of the ABC comes straight from God because they never hear anything else. If they could have a comparison, they would hear what the world is saying and how the ABC interprets it. They would then quickly appreciate the need for an independent signal and an alternative channel.

If a commercial operation becomes established, there are other areas of major potential for the Territory. The government could go to the commercial television station and ask it to develop educational programs, agricultural programs, special programs for remote areas, television School of the Air in some circumstances and tele-conferencing. Many special communication services, currently unavailable in the Northern Territory, could commence, and that would be a great plus. The government must spend considerably on its own internal communications. We could probably join with others to ensure that additional communication services are made available to all Territorians. The current work could be of great benefit to the Territory if the respective applicants to the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal could establish some common ground. If they maintain independent positions, many possible initiatives will not occur.

The member for Ludmilla and myself have been working on this for some time. We have considered a whole range of options for the Territory government to assist in establishing a commercial broadcast signal so that people in remote areas can benefit from it. We are both convinced that, if the Northern Territory government is able to join with the other 2 parties in putting together a common approach to the issue of a licence, all Territorians could benefit. That would be a fantastic thing. I say, and I say it graciously, that the Northern Territory government believes that it is very important for special Aboriginal transmission to occur in remote areas. Aborigines in remote areas probably have a greater need for the flow of information than anyone else. At the moment, they receive very little at all. I am sure they will welcome this and benefit from it. If CAAMA and NTD8 can find their way to common ground before the tribunal, this government will be there to try to help people put a package together that will be viable and will serve remote area Territorians well.

Government Assistance to Mudginberri Meatworks

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

With reference to my previous question, are the Northern Territory's guarantees related to the present damages claim under way between the proprietor of Mudginberri and the AMIEU, under what appropriation is the guarantee being made and to what extent is the Northern Territory government acting as guarantor?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I suggest that the member put that question on notice because I do not have those details in my head at the moment. If he wishes me to do so, I will obtain them for him. In any event, the matter before the court is a very important one. If the applicant before the court, Mr Pendarvis, is successful in his action, he will probably do very well and the Northern Territory government will not become involved. However, there are exposures related to the sale of the meat and the price that it will bring. In those terms, I suggest the member put his question on notice.

Schwarz Crescent Shelter

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What problems have prevented the opening of the sobering-up shelter in Schwarz Crescent in Alice Springs?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Will the honourable minister resume his seat? Would the member identify the problems rather than give the minister carte blanche to proceed for days in reply.

Mr D.W. COLLINS: Mr Speaker, I will rephrase the question. Why has the sobering-up shelter in Alice Springs not opened?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will be pleased to answer the question. I understood that question time was limited to 11 am and did not continue for days, although I would welcome the opportunity to speak for days. The Drug and Alcohol Services Association in Alice Springs, with funding from the Department of Health through the grants-in-aid provisions, has set up the facility. The removal of the building from its original site to its new location entailed problems with water drainage and sewerage requirements. I am pleased to inform the honourable member that the facility should be completed in late December or early January and be operational by March 1986 at the very latest.

Canadian Pacific Railway Proposal

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he confirm recent news reports that the proposed private railway from Alice Springs to Darwin will carry freight only?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, for the benefit of the member, the papers relating to the railway are being circulated now for debate tomorrow. His question is a very important and very valid one. One of the important findings of the Canadian Pacific study is that there are savings of \$30m to \$40m to be made by the railway not being involved in the transportation of passengers. Reasons are given in the report as to why that is the case. Canadian Pacific has said to the Northern Territory government that it is possible to build a railway in the same way as they have been built everywhere else in Australia but, if we do that, we will need an enormous government subsidy forever. It has told us that, if we wish to start from the premise of making a profit on the railway, we cannot afford to do the things that everybody else has done.

Mr Smith: You cannot afford to have passengers?

Mr TUXWORTH: That is one of the things that has been highlighted. Obviously, the point that we ought to be raising with the Commonwealth is that we are able to build an economic railway. Since it is able to run uneconomic passenger services from Sydney to Perth, from Adelaide to Alice Springs, and just about everywhere else in Australia, since it is able to spend \$3000m a year subsidising unprofitable railways in this country and since it has not yet made a commitment to do anything for the Northern Territory ...

Mr Smith: Your private railway is losing a lot of its gloss.

Mr TUXWORTH: Mr Speaker, if the Deputy Leader of the Opposition would listen for a minute...

Mr Smith: We are.

Mr TUXWORTH: You are not. You are talking all the time and trying to cut me off. Just listen and get it straight and we will all be talking about the same thing.

If it is reasonable for ANR to run passengers from Adelaide to Alice Springs at great expense to the Australian taxpayer, on what basis would it find that it is not able to run them from Alice Springs to Darwin?

Mr Smith: That is going to be dangerous.

Mr TUXWORTH: Mr Speaker, the honourable member says that it is going to be dangerous.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr TUXWORTH: Mr Speaker, I would say from the tone of the member that the flat earth society is out and about and it will do a fantastic job. It walked into the street when we proposed the pipeline. It poured cold water on the idea, abused people...

Mr Ede: We said it first.

Mr TUXWORTH: The one thing that the member for Stuart is able to do in this Assembly is get a laugh from time to time. 'We said it first'. What rubbish! For the benefit of the the member for Stuart, could I say that, when the pipeline was proposed, the ALP tipped buckets on the idea. Now it is riding on its back.

The report on the railway will be brought down tomorrow and members will have 6 to 9 months to debate the report. I invite members to go through it to identify where the problems are and, as we find them, we will fix them. That is exactly how we went about the pipeline and it is exactly how we will succeed with the railway.

#### University College

Mr DALE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Following the government's announcement during the budget sittings that the Territory would have to go it alone to provide a university for the Territory, principally as a result of a lack of commitment by the federal ALP government, is he now in a position to advise what progress has been made to meet the January 1987 commencement date?

ANSWER

I thank the member for his question. I would like to start by again making the comment that it is disappointing that the Commonwealth has not seen fit to support us in our aim to provide undergraduate university courses for our people in the Territory. It appears that it is okay everywhere else in Australia but, as far as the Northern Territory is concerned, it is not good enough. The Territory has made its decision and there is legislation before us, which will be debated later in this sittings, in relation to the establishment of a university college.

Mr SMITH: A point of order, Mr Speaker! The minister has himself said that we will have an opportunity later in these sittings to debate this matter. That is the appropriate place to debate this matter, not in question time.

Mr SPEAKER: I refer honourable members to standing order 112. My ruling is that the minister's reply is within the bounds of the standing order.

Mr HARRIS: The honourable member asked what work has been done in order to have a university college established by the start of 1987. I can inform members that we have identified the former Darwin Primary School site as the site for the university college. We have also identified the Police Training Centre as part of the campus. We will also be occupying part of Winlow House, at the corner of Woods and Lindsay Streets, for university college purposes. The library will be built next to Winlow House. This facility, close to the college itself, will be conveniently located for students. As previously announced, student accommodation will be available at Lambell House.

I have given members an assurance that I will keep them posted in relation to developments concerning the university college. It is my intention to give more details in the course of these sittings, perhaps in the adjournment debate.

#### Canadian Pacific Railway Proposal

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

How much does he expect the Commonwealth to contribute towards the proposed private freight-only railway?

ANSWER

We will not be asking the Commonwealth for a contribution to this railway proposal. The facts must be obvious to the member for MacDonnell. It is only a couple of years ago that the Prime Minister, before coming to power, promised that the Labor Party would build the railway. Subsequently, he decided that his promise was not worth honouring. Next, the federal government made a 60-40 financing offer to the Northern Territory. This was clearly outside the bounds of the Northern Territory's ability to finance, and the Commonwealth subsequently withdrew the offer. In terms of the things that Commonwealth ministers are saying, I can see no likelihood of the Commonwealth government contributing a penny. We really must try to do it by ourselves. It will be a very daunting challenge but not an impossible one.

I think this is an ideal opportunity for the Commonwealth to reconsider its position. The project is a very exciting one and the responsibility of the Commonwealth does not diminish just because it wants to break a promise for political reasons. In terms of the figures and assessments contained in the Canadian Pacific proposal, there is an opportunity for the Commonwealth to review its position. Canadian Pacific has a strong record in railway transport. It freights 86 million tonnes a year in North America and makes a quid out of the operation. It is not exactly a mug in the game of running railways and giving advice to people. It is saying that it is possible to do it. If the Commonwealth can see the benefits that will flow to the nation, it ought to agree to become involved because it is a good project for Australia as well as for the Northern Territory. It is an Australian national project.

One of the things that has defied my understanding since day one of this exercise is how one can set out to build a transcontinental railway from Adelaide to Darwin, complete half the project, decide it was not a financial success because it stopped in the middle of a desert and then use that as an excuse not to build the second half. That is just so Irish, it is unbelievable, yet it is exactly what has happened. What we are saying is that it is not possible for the nation to benefit from the railway until it is completed. We have spent \$300m or \$400m getting it to Alice Springs and we need to complete it so that it has a value to the nation. Setting aside the defence aspects, there is value to the nation in terms of transferring freight from the road to rail and all the economies that go with that.

At this stage, the Commonwealth is not being asked to contribute a penny. It is being asked to reconsider its position and that is a reasonable request. I think members would accept that the Commonwealth's attitude so far has not been terribly productive. If it were prepared to reconsider its position, it would make the whole thing look so much better. I feel sorry for the members opposite who were left with the legacy of the Prime Minister breaking a promise that will live with them forever. I think there is an opportunity for us to put all that behind us and say: 'This is possible. Let's get in and make it work'. Possibly, we can make it work even with opposition coming from hell, west and crooked but, if we all worked together and directed our energies to the success of the project instead of tearing it down and tipping buckets on it, it would be so much better for everybody who wants to be involved in it.



Department of Lands Office in Katherine

Mr VALE to Mr HATTON

Mr Speaker, my question is asked on behalf of the member for Elsey. What has been the impact of the opening of the Department of Lands office in Katherine? Is it keeping pace with the demand for services and what are the department's future plans for the office?

ANSWER

It goes without saying that, with the announcement of the go-ahead for the Tindal base, Katherine will face quite an explosive growth over the next few years. I am pleased to say that the Department of Lands has been responding successfully to meet the demands that will flow from that for services to be provided by the Northern Territory government. Members would be aware of the financial resources that have been committed in this year's budget to provide infrastructure for future growth in the town. As well, physical human resources have been placed in Katherine this year to cope with the increasing activity in the building and development of the Katherine area.

In May this year, the Department of Lands opened an office in Katherine for the first time. That was in response to growing pressure for applications and inspections - both plumbing and building inspections - applications for rezoning and development applications in the township. The reaction from the township to the new office has been quite dramatic. There has been a dramatic impact on development around the town. The office provides advice on all land issues and, for the first time, building and plumbing inspectors are providing immediate service to the public. In the short period since it opened, more than \$7.7m worth of building approvals have been processed in Katherine. It should be noted that this does not include major projects such as the extension to the Katherine Hospital, the new Katherine east schools and the extension to the Katherine Rural Education College. These projects alone are worth over \$20m in Katherine. Applications for land in the Katherine region have also increased. There are now over 100 proposals for the direct sale of land or for grants of land for non-commercial projects in Katherine.

Local confidence in the growth of the town is very high. This is demonstrated by the number of applications for development. These applications have increased to such an extent that Planning Authority meetings are now being held monthly instead of every 6 weeks. If it is necessary, with increasing activity in that town, there will be more frequent Planning Authority meetings to keep pace.

With the development and the reaction to the opening of the office in Katherine, the level of complaints for delays has dropped off to be almost non-existent. There are likely to be increasing demands in the not-too-distant future and we are already planning for the need for additional staffing and resources in Katherine in 1986. We will be moving to meet demand.

Alice Springs to Darwin Railway

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I would like to preface my question by saying, firstly, that the Chief Minister should be in no doubt about the opposition's support for the Alice Springs to Darwin railway and, secondly ...

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Would the honourable member ask his question?

Mr BELL: Will he give an undertaking that there will be no Northern Territory government guarantees for a private railway?

ANSWER

I have outlined the statement I will make tomorrow and the government's position. It is my view that the proposed operation should be funded, operated and constructed privately. A range of options are canvassed in the statement as to whether it is prudent and wise for the government to be involved at all and, if at all, in what way. We should embark on this project from day 1 with the objective of having government backup and support. That is pretty simple. We may well get down the track and need to make a decision as to whether the government should be involved. That is very simple.

In terms of briefing members of the opposition in respect of the pipeline project, I was quite happy to make them aware of the details as the exercise progressed so that they could understand the complexity involved. It is not just a 2 plus 2 equals 4 scenario. If the opposition is prepared to play a very productive and positive role in the whole thing, I will be happy to involve it from day 1.

Mr Smith: You could have given us the Canadian Pacific report a few months ago.

Mr TUXWORTH: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition suggests I should have given the opposition the Canadian Pacific report a couple of months ago. As is its wont, it is inclined to jump in tipping buckets on everything before it has even been considered. The point that I am making now is that it should read the report, look at the banking assessments and consider the options that we have outlined. Then we can progress the development of the economics like rational people instead of conducting a political argle-bargle in the press that does not really do much credit either to the ALP or to the future of the project.

All I say to the opposition is that the role that it wants to play will be very important, whether it is positive or negative. If it plays the same sort of role it played in relation to the pipeline, that would be fantastic. After it saw the figures on the pipeline and realised the folly of its original remarks, it really came on side and it was good all the way. It was fantastic. The only mug in the whole exercise was Senator Walsh. Even the opposition would admit that. We are now going through a phase of developing a project that has never been undertaken in Australia before. It is possible. It can be done with a little working cooperation. I invite the members opposite to take that role.

#### Gunn Point Area

Mr SETTER to MINISTER for LANDS

What action is being taken to open up the Gunn Point area for recreational and primary production purposes?

ANSWER

It is with great pleasure that I am able to say that the Gunn Point area has long been recognised by the government as having potential for recreational, primary production and other activities. To that end, this year we have been working solidly on the development of a structure plan for the Gunn Point area. I am pleased to advise that we are well down the track on its development. The major activity that is likely to be going on at Gunn Point will be of a recreational nature and significant areas of land are being set aside for recreational purposes. Over 15 000 ha at Gunn Point will be vested in the Conservation Land Corporation for the development of recreation. This area will be controlled by the Conservation Commission and that will ensure environmentally-sensitive areas, such as the foreshore, are protected and the remaining areas properly managed.

There is considerable public interest also in weekender sites and camping facilities. It is proposed to subdivide an area at Point Stephens to provide unserviced weekender lots, and another coastal area, originally earmarked for weekender development, is now considered best suited for a seaside pleasure resort and an upmarket holiday and residential development. Water for a development on this scale has been located in an aquifer to the south-east of the area. In addition to the larger-scale projects, caravan parks and camping ground sites have been identified along with sites for community services and stores.

Approximately 3500 ha have been identified in addition to that as being potentially suitable for agricultural use, such as mangoes and field crops like soya beans and maize. It is the government's policy to retain arable land in areas large enough for agricultural development. These 3500 ha have therefore been set aside for detailed studies into future cropping and orchard projects. These studies will include a detailed assessment of the capacity of the Benhams Lagoon basin to provide water to the surrounding areas.

As well, 2 areas with potential for aquaculture have been identified between the Adelaide River mouth and Glyde Point. Already, several groups have expressed interest in establishing aquaculture projects on the tidal flats in these areas. These proposals are being examined by the Northern Territory Development Corporation, the Department of Lands and the Department of Ports and Fisheries. In addition to the tidal flats, an area has been identified to allow the establishment of support services for the hatcheries, grow-out ponds and living areas for people working on those projects in the future. Glyde Point, with its access to deep water, has long-term potential for port and industrial development. 1000 ha will be set aside in this general area for aquacultural and other port and industrial-related activities.

While the government has no immediate plans to relocate the Gunn Point Prison Farm, the site certainly has potential for residential development. This potential will be addressed when the future of the prison farm is considered. We are awaiting anxiously on my ministerial colleague for the answer to that particular question.

Earlier this year, the member for Millner echoed the government's desire to see Gunn Point opened to the public. He will no doubt be glad to learn that we now not only have a strategy plan but are working towards its implementation. Obviously, a fair amount of money will be needed to bring

these developments to fruition and Cabinet therefore will be considering the timing of the projects in the near future in the context of the budget.

Absence of Deputy Chief Minister

Mr SMITH to DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER

Given that leave of absence was sought for him from the Assembly last Thursday because he had been called to Sydney for a meeting with the Premier of New South Wales, can he now report to the Assembly on the subject and results of that meeting.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not aware of the particular reasons given for my absence from the Assembly last Thursday afternoon. I attended the opening of the Intercontinental Hotel at the invitation of Lord MacAlpine who is a major shareholder of that group. Lord MacAlpine has expressed an interest in development in the Northern Territory and especially Darwin. Over the last few months, he has expended considerable amounts of money in purchasing land for development. The Chief Minister was invited to the same function but, because of the Assembly sittings, it was decided late on Thursday afternoon that I would go to Sydney for that function. At that function, I had the opportunity of speaking to Mr Haddad who is the Chairman of the Australian Tourist Commission, Sir Peter Darlin and many other persons of importance. I believed that the Northern Territory government should fly the flag a bit as far as Lord MacAlpine was concerned because of his interests in the Northern Territory. For that reason I attended that particular function.

Funding for Local Government

Mr DALE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What levels of funding for the Territory's major town councils in 1985-86 have been recommended by the Northern Territory Local Government Grants Committee?

ANSWER

This morning I shall table a paper from the Local Government Grants Committee detailing the allocation of funds to councils in the Northern Territory. I can inform the member for Wanguri that the Local Government Grants Committee has recommended a sum of \$6.9m for distribution to 5 major councils. This represents an increase of about 21% in general purpose assistance and an increase of 40% in the Northern Territory. Darwin City Council will receive \$3.4m, Alice Springs Town Council \$1.1m, Katherine Town Council \$763 000, Tennant Creek Town Council \$663 000 and, last but certainly not least, Palmerston Town Council \$976 000.

In relation to the Palmerston figure, the newly-formed branch of the Australian Labor Party at Palmerston recently held a meeting in a phone box and decided to take up a petition. I believe this had the support of the Leader of the Opposition. The only exercise he ever gets is jumping to conclusions, like all the other opposition members except the member for MacDonnell who is well known for his running expertise.

Mr SMITH: A point of order, Mr Speaker! The minister's answer has no relevance to the question.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister has strayed from the point. Will he please answer the question?

Mr COULTER: I am pleased to be able to bury the allegations about funding for Palmerston. Being a numbers man from way back, Mr Speaker, you will have noticed that Palmerston received one-seventh of the total allocation. It received over \$200 000 more than Katherine. I am sure, Mr Speaker, you would be interested in that figure. Palmerston received over \$300 000 more than Tennant Creek and I am sure the Chief Minister would be interested in that figure. In fact, it is only about \$100 000 less than Alice Springs and I am sure there are 6 people in this Assembly who would be interested in that figure. Yet we have the Palmerston Labor Party taking up a petition! I am grateful to have its support in this matter; it can help me as much as it likes. If funding to local government had been allocated purely on a per capita basis, Palmerston would have received only \$244 000 which is \$0.5m less than it actually received. I think that adequately demonstrates the government's deep commitment to the future development and success of Palmerston.

I should inform members that the transition to full local government in Palmerston is progressing smoothly and will be assisted by this year's funding allocation. The government will respond to the submission at the end of January next year and agreement will be reached by the end of March. I believe the Northern Territory government is committed to local government as the third tier of government in the Northern Territory. We have increased expenditure. This is at a time when we are looking at ways and means of cutting government expenditure. We will continue to finance and run with it. Given his policies and philosophies, nobody could blame the member for MacDonnell for running.

#### Giles House

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Rumour has it that the philosophy behind the running of Giles House, commonly called 'the Helen Daff approach', is to be radically changed. Can he assure the Assembly that this rumour relating to a very successful approach is false?

#### ANSWER

This matter has been brought to my attention by a number of people over recent months. Of course, we are all aware of the successes of Mrs Daff. Unfortunately, she had to retire from her position this year. She moved to Perth as a result of her husband's illness, and he subsequently passed away.

I intend personally to address the problems which have been brought to my attention regarding the philosophy of the Giles House detention centre. I intend to travel to Alice Springs within the next 2 weeks to look at this problem. In recent weeks, I travelled throughout the United States and Canada looking at similar institutions. I will be making an announcement after I have had the opportunity to view the situation at Alice Springs first hand. I will keep members advised because I believe that this issue needs to be addressed within the context of the problems that we are experiencing with juvenile justice in the Northern Territory.

### Illegal SP Bookmaking in the Northern Territory

Mr DALE to CHIEF Minister

Could he report to the Assembly on recent police activities in relation to illegal SP bookmaking in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the activities of SP bookmakers in the Northern Territory seem to be gaining a little momentum. Since the introduction of TAB in July this year, the Special Operations Unit of the police force has concentrated its activities primarily on the suppression of illegal SP operations. Two search warrants have been executed on premises suspected of being involved in SP bookmaking. In several instances, persons have ceased SP operations when it became obvious they were under police surveillance. At present, surveillance is also being carried out on persons who are suspected of being involved in illegal SP operations and this surveillance is occurring also in country areas. I also advise members that the police are monitoring TAB returns very closely to ensure that takings do not drop substantially at a specific agency because that is one of the surest indicators that there are illegal SP operators in an area.

In summary, the potential illegal operators throughout the Territory are acutely aware that the Special Operations Unit is constantly carrying out its inquiries and surveillance. Whilst some people may commence illegal activities, they do so mindful of the risk of prosecution. I do not believe that the level of SP operation in the Northern Territory will increase. On the contrary, I think it will decrease as the police become more effective.

### Government Assistance to Mudginberri Meatworks

Mr LEO to the CHIEF MINISTER

Did the Northern Territory government have any agreement with Mudginberri Pty Ltd prior to the August \$2m loan to underwrite the legal expenses of Mudginberri Pty Ltd and, if so, was a ceiling set on the limit of that underwriting?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, let me make it clear that at no stage has the government undertaken to underwrite legal expenses involved in the defence of Mudginberri's position in the courts. As far as I know, the National Farmers Federation became involved in that exercise from day one. What the Territory government has done is to give an undertaking that it will stand behind the Mudginberri export meatworks and Jay Pendarvis for a sum of \$2m with a collateral of 600 t of buffalo meat that ought to be exported from Australian shores to overseas markets as soon as possible. If the member for Nhulunbuy has an interest in the Northern Territory and the maintenance of our buffalo industry, he might like to ring his colleagues in Canberra and ask them to take the chains off and let Mudginberri sell its meat, which it ought to be able to do as soon as possible. What is preventing Mudginberri from selling its meat is the attitude, the involvement and the determination of federal ministers not to let the meat leave the country.

Litchfield Shire

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When will legislation be introduced to implement the expressed wishes of people in the rural area to have a president and councillors rather than a mayor and aldermen in the Litchfield Shire?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I received representations during the last Legislative Assembly sittings from people who wanted some changes, including changes to the rating system. I answered a question from the member for Nhulunbuy during this sittings. The other point was that they wished to have a president and councillors out there, not a mayor and aldermen. The election for the Litchfield Shire will take place on Saturday 7 December.

The Local Government Act at present provides only for the election of a mayor and aldermen. In my press release of 20 September, I announced that the act would be amended in the November sittings to allow for a shire president and councillors. However, this has not been possible for 2 reasons. Firstly, minor amendments to the Local Government Act could not be made because of higher priority legislative drafting currently with the Parliamentary Counsel. Secondly, having constituted the shire, it would not be possible for this amendment to apply retrospectively for the election of the Shire of Litchfield due to be held on 7 December. The instrument by which the shire was constituted on 6 September 1985 provided for the election of a mayor and 4 aldermen in accordance with the act. Any amendment of the act, therefore, to alter the title of mayor and aldermen to include president and councillors will now have to be made at the March sittings.

So far as rates are concerned, I have answered that question. Arrangements will be made to ensure that the rating system, as decided by the representation that I received, goes ahead. In the meantime, the words 'president' and 'councillor' are being used in all literature which is being issued by the Electoral Office and any advertising campaigns and awareness programs which the government is embarking on in the Shire of Litchfield. I can assure the member that it is a sensitive issue. I am well aware of it. Some people might ask what is in a name but this is a very important issue in the Litchfield Shire. I can assure her that the only 'mare' in her electorate will be a female equine.

Building Inspections

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS

What action can the government take against builders who refuse to have their buildings inspected at the appropriate stages of construction?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am aware of the concerns of the member for Sadadeen with respect to buildings. There have been some recent accusations in Alice Springs concerning poor standards of workmanship. In one instance, there has been an accusation that no inspection was carried out.

I am advised by the department that the legislation does not require specifically that inspections must be carried out but that they may be carried out. Obviously, the obligation is on the builder to ensure that the buildings are completed in accordance with building specifications and the Building Code. How we should handle the matter is quite a vexing question. This government does not support the introduction of licensing. There has been extensive investigation of licensing, registration of builders and a multitude of approaches, none of which really addresses the problem of ensuring that the builder achieves craftsmanlike standards. I understand that the majority of complaints to the member relate to this issue.

The member for Sadadeen put forward some suggestions in a memorandum to me. Among those was the possibility of preparing a building log book in which the steps in construction would be recorded. It would include details of all inspections and the use of contractors and subcontractors on different parts of a building project. That log book would become the property of the home owner on the completion of the project. Perhaps that idea has some merit. It is being investigated at the moment.

You cannot legislate for workmanlike qualities in buildings. Inevitably, a building is a contract between the builder and the person who will own and pay for the construction. There are contractual conditions associated with that, and there are contractual remedies in the event that work is not carried out in a tradesmanlike manner or in accordance with the requirements of the law. That contractual relationship has been developed over centuries. Contract law provides adequate remedies and, in many cases, it is the only possible course of action. Legal proceedings are under way in the particular instance to which the member refers and I am therefore constrained in commenting on it. I can say that we are addressing the points raised by the member. We are endeavouring to develop processes to assist home owners and home buyers so that they can be satisfied that inspections have been carried out and that the quality of workmanship is being monitored. We are approaching this in a manner which would also assist the builder.

Secondly, I confirm that, in one instance, it would appear that there may not have been an inspection at a particular stage of a building project in Alice Springs. I have taken that up in a very direct manner with the department. I can assure members that that practice will not continue in the future and that inspections will be carried out properly.

#### Ti Tree Shooting

Mr EDE to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to the tragic shooting of Aboriginal people at Ti Tree. Has he referred the question of whether there should be a judicial inquiry into allegations of misconduct and improper practice by police to the Commissioner of Police for his advice?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will be making a short statement this morning on the Ti Tree issue. I think the member will find the answer comprehensive.



Proposed Cancellation of East West Airlines Flights  
to Yulara

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TOURISM

My question concerns the proposed cancellation of East West Airlines flights between Sydney, Yulara and Perth. Has he yet had time to study this and what impact would it have on the tourist development at Yulara and indeed within the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have not had an opportunity at this stage to consider the impact of the federal government's decision to cancel the East West Airlines operation into Yulara. Upon hearing the news yesterday, I was more than disappointed because East West Airlines has pioneered this interstate run into the Northern Territory and has put much time, money and effort into developing its route as well as developing Yulara. The very odd thing about it is that last night an announcement was made that Yulara resort won the national tourism award which is certainly a very prestigious award.

I was listening to AM this morning and heard the federal Minister for Transport, Mr Morris, explaining why that particular decision was made. Like a good politician, he duck-shoved the issue and said that the Secretary of the Department of Aviation had made that particular decision.

The other point raised was that the 2-airline agreement was made in the early days of the Menzies government. The federal Minister for Transport said that the 2-airline agreement was set in concrete until 1990. Of course, I thought that our own Memorandum of Understanding was set in concrete until such time as a new Memorandum of Understanding is finally negotiated. On the one hand, we are told that this is set in concrete and nothing can happen until 1990. On the other hand, the federal government's vindictive attitude towards the Northern Territory enabled it to change the memorandum which is no longer set in concrete.

Certainly, there will be an impact on Yulara with the loss of the East West Airlines' operation. I listened to Premier Burke's comments about it. I am quite sure that the Northern Territory government will support Premier Burke and East West Airlines if they take this matter to court because it is a very important part of the tourism development of the Northern Territory. As I see it, it is just another vicious campaign by the federal government to stop development in the Northern Territory.

Ti Tree Shooting

Mr EDE to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he confirm the accuracy of a report carried in the Northern Territory News yesterday that, following advice from the Police Commissioner, he decided to reject an inquiry into the Ti Tree shooting? The report reads as follows: 'This follows advice from Police Commissioner, Mr Peter McAulay, who told Chief Minister, Mr Ian Tuxworth, that a coronial inquiry and a Supreme Court murder trial had followed the shooting and that no further investigation was necessary'.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, just in case the member for Stuart is a little hard of hearing, I say again that I will cover the issues that he is talking about in a statement later today. If he is a little patient, he can have all the details that I am prepared to make comment on. As for confirming the contents of articles in the Northern Territory News, that is a little outside my scope of operations.

### Droving Australia Project

Mr McCARTHY to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What is the current situation regarding the Droving Australia Project for the Australian bicentennial celebrations?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, in my opinion, the Droving Australia Project is one of the most exciting and relevant activities that is likely to occur in the bicentennial celebrations. We have heard considerable comment and criticism of the Bicentennial Authority's activities over recent times, and much of it unjustified. It appears that it is undesirable practice to criticise the Prime Minister or go against what he wants to do. Nonetheless, in the Northern Territory, there are a couple of excellent projects for the bicentennial year. The Tall Ships Project - a national project - will capture the imagination of the Northern Territory and Australia generally. Certainly it will reflect our history and our past with the sailing of the First Fleet to Australia and the subsequent sailing ship contacts between ourselves and our then motherland.

The Northern Territory was opened up by the great cattle drives in the last century. The great cattle drives that occurred across the top of Australia are an integral part of the history of Australia. This project will recapture the spirit and the history of that time. I believe that it will capture the imagination of Australians generally and, at the same time, provide a unique opportunity to young children throughout Australia to participate actively in this venture and gain an experience that probably would not be available to them otherwise.

To give an outline of this particular project, it will be an authentic re-enactment of a cattle drive. It will take 1600 head of cattle from Newcastle Waters in the Northern Territory to Longreach in Queensland. As you would be aware, Mr Speaker, that is the site of the Stockmen's Hall of Fame and the Outback Heritage Centre.

Secondly, a separate series of drovers' camps, involving the participation of students, will enable young Australians to retrace the stock routes established by the overlanders and provide a link between community-based bicentennial celebrations and a national commemorative activity. The Australian Bicentennial Authority has approved the Northern Territory's application to have Droving Australia included in the official program of national, state and territory events throughout the course of 1988. It is expected that the authority will provide an initial grant to the project with a further review of funding in March or April 1986. Confirmation of these matters in writing is expected shortly. The project has received favourable publicity in an article published in the Bulletin which concludes: 'I trust its endorsement by the Bicentennial Authority will be a mere formality'.

A pictorial display prepared by the department for exhibition at this year's shows throughout the Territory has been lent to the Pine Creek National Trust Museum and will go on loan to the Katherine Historical Trust as a result of the interest it has generated. The Directors-General of Education have accepted the student selection criteria formulated by the Department of Primary Production and they have undertaken to appoint state selection panels for the purpose of selecting participants for the project.

A photographic assignment to document the life and work of Territory cattlemen has been completed. It will form the basis of the Hasselblad 1986 trade promotions. Hasselblad, a Swedish photographic manufacturer, is understood to be interested in exhibiting the photographs in Europe and America. I believe that that will make a significant contribution to the promotion of the Northern Territory as a destination for European tourists.

A preliminary assessment of the Barkly stock routes and an appraisal of stockfeed requirements, stabling and depot bases is under way, with more detailed field work to continue throughout the wet season, a traditional down-time for the beef industry. As I said at the beginning, I believe this project will capture the imagination of Australians and provide a unique opportunity for young Australians to participate in a re-enactment of our history, and it will be a major contribution to Australia's bicentennial activities.

#### Further Amendments to Public Service Act

Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

When will the government introduce further amendments to the Public Service Act foreshadowed by the Leader of Government Business prior to these sittings?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the only amendments that I know of that are proposed on the notice paper are those put forward by the opposition. At this stage, the government is not contemplating any amendments to the Public Service Act.

#### National Enterprise Workshop Finals

Mr FIRMIN to CHIEF MINISTER

Has he received a report in respect of the National Enterprise Workshop finals in Adelaide which deliberated on new inventions and, if so, what was the result of the Northern Territory's first attempt at those finals?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, as I understand it, the Northern Territory has participated previously in the National Enterprise Workshop. This year, a delegation of Territorians went to Adelaide for the finals and did very well.

I would like to commend the Territorians who were involved, both those involved in training and those who participated in the workshop, because it is another opportunity for Territorians to pursue excellence. The people who went away were obviously people who had reached the top of the ladder here and would benefit tremendously from going interstate to compete with other people.

While we did not win the sections in which we participated at the workshop, we did very well and received commendations from the workshop organisers.

A pertinent issue to take into account is that this is an important part of Territorians' development. It is something that we should pursue and expand on every year and enlarge into other facets of life where Territorians have an opportunity to compete nationally and do well nationally. The Deputy Chief Minister spoke a moment ago about Yulara receiving a national tourism award for excellence. Kakadu received a prize as a destination. I think that these are areas that we must pursue continuously to establish the Northern Territory's presence in the Australian scene. We are capable of performing well. We do not need to spend the rest of our lives in a state of submission because people like Senator Walsh and others spend their whole lives beating us down.

#### General Aviation Services in the Top End

Mr FINCH to Mr MANZIE

In view of various statements that have been made regarding the Territory's general aviation industry, in particular tenure at Darwin Airport - and I guess we all wait with bated breath to hear what the Hawke government has to say about developments there - what steps are proposed to ensure the future provision of general aviation services to the Top End?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, as the member for Wagaman pointed out, it is quite a problem. I alluded to it in a statement I made to the Assembly last week regarding the development at the Darwin Airport. I think all members are fully aware of the important part that the general aviation industry plays in the development of the Territory. Members who represent remote areas would be most concerned that the problems facing the general aviation industry may have quite far-reaching effects in regard to transport both of people and goods to many areas of the Territory. As well as that, the industry encompasses such areas as our aero-medical service and a number of other tourism-related services.

The facts of the matter are that the general aviation industry is on very short-term leases at the present Darwin Airport. Some are only 30-day leases which are renewable. The maximum time for which operators can obtain leases is 5 years, and only with temporary premises which can be moved at a few weeks' notice. I think all members are also aware of the fact that the RAAF has informed the general aviation industry that, by the year 2000, it must have vacated its present site. This is all very well but there have been no provisions made by anybody as to where the general aviation industry will go and what sort of tenure it may be able to look forward to. Of course, this presents tremendous problems in relation to planning and the building of facilities, such as hangars and maintenance facilities. The overall future growth of the general aviation industry is being strangled. Participants are just like nomads - they could probably do just as well with a series of tents. Possibly, that is what the federal minister has in mind - that they move around the perimeter of the airport with a series of large shade cloths. Certainly, the general aviation industry is very important to the development of the Territory.

I have written to the federal minister regarding my concerns and the concerns of the industry in Darwin about its future. I asked him to consider

the general aviation industry's future siting while he was examining the Darwin Airport terminal location problems. However, the federal minister has replied and said that this is another matter altogether and will be dealt with separately at some time in the future. I find this extremely disappointing. I think that all members must be concerned. This industry has evolved in the Territory. In fact, Qantas started in the Territory.

We still have a situation at the Darwin Airport where an industry - an industry that requires tremendous capital both to commence and to operate - is operating from temporary facilities. The facilities are such that they must be moved at a moment's notice. There is absolutely nothing in the future to give any of our operators any heart whatsoever in the development of their industry. Until such time as the availability of permanent sites which will allow the building of permanent facilities and the consequent economic benefits, industry will not develop any further at all. With the present uncertainty, it is quite possible that the industry will decline. A good example is Lloyds Aviation which successfully won a tender to service BHP facilities off the coast. That company is having real problems trying to find somewhere to base quite a large maintenance area. This is an industry that employs people, trains people and generally gives a boost to the whole economy. It provides the important support which we have all come to expect.

Obviously, the people who pull the strings in Canberra certainly do not consider Territorians deserve any information or any consideration whatsoever. It is most disappointing. I certainly hope that the federal minister realises the seriousness of the situation and that appropriate steps will be taken in the near future which will enable the general aviation industry to develop on a firm footing in the Territory.

#### Community Service Groups in Alice Springs

Mr BELL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I draw his attention to the community service groups currently accommodated in the old library building in Alice Springs which is due to be demolished next month. What action will he take to ensure that these community service groups will be accommodated adequately?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have become accustomed to that type of question from the member for MacDonnell: what action will the minister take? I have been working on this particular problem for the last 18 months but apparently he did not get the message down there.

Mr Bell: That is why I asked the question.

Mr COULTER: Perhaps he does not come to town that often. The point is that I am aware of the problems and I have been working with the various groups down there. They are excellent groups and they are a credit to the Alice Springs community. They work extremely hard in their endeavours to provide community services to a whole range of people, including family day care, services to the handicapped, the toy library, play groups and so on. I believe they have tolerated what can only be described as second-rate accommodation in the old library building. It is cold, damp and dilapidated.

The member for Flynn has also been working on this problem in recent times. I have made approaches with him to various council people and I have also approached the Minister for Education to see if his department can offer accommodation. We recently went to the Handyman Centre in Alice Springs. The second floor of that building has the only place available to accommodate those organisations. We have also made arrangements for them to move into the Hartley Street school when that is refurbished. It is being refurbished by the Heritage Commission at the moment and I believe that it will be available in about June next year. In the meantime, we have a problem. I believe that the Alice Springs Town Council has a role to play and it should be involved in some of the social issues addressed by the various organisations which currently operate from the old library building.

The council is to consider an application to relocate them to the old betting shop opposite the hotel. Alderman Hermann Weber is expected to put this proposition to council within the next 2 weeks. I have been working on this problem for the last 12 months and I know the member for Flynn has also gone out of his way. I would be interested to know what the member for MacDonnell has done. Has he raised the matter just for the sake of asking a question or has he some constructive suggestions for alternative locations? He knows some of the people who operate out of the building.

People expect their elected members to be pro-active. The member for MacDonnell has picked me up on that word before and, unfortunately, there are at least 5 members of this Assembly who cannot be described by it. These opposition members do not represent their electorates actively. They are people who will not get up and do anything except knock, knock, knock.

#### Industrial Dispute at Alice Springs Prison

Mr SETTER to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Can he advise the Assembly on the current industrial dispute at the Alice Springs Prison?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am sad to say that there is an industrial dispute at the Alice Springs Prison. There was a stop-work meeting yesterday in contravention of our 38-hour week agreement which stipulates that management must be notified of any grievance before strike action commences. I do not have the full details yet. There was a meeting at 8 o'clock this morning, and I will advise members of further developments throughout the day. The dispute relates to an issue which reflects great credit on this government: equal employment opportunities. I understand that the dispute has arisen because a female prisoner officer carried out gate duties at the prison.

On my recent overseas trip, I observed that there were many female prisoner officers in prisons throughout Canada and America. I believe female officers can contribute to the general stability and harmony of a prison and I am extremely disappointed that the prisoner officers in Alice Springs have seen fit to become involved in an industrial dispute which would deny equal employment opportunities to women in the Northern Territory. I will report back to members as I receive more details.

Alice Springs to Darwin Railway

Mr SMITH to CHIEF MINISTER

On a number of occasions, the Chief Minister has stressed the need for bipartisan support for the railway project, particularly the current railway project. In the light of this sentiment, what are the contents of an agreement that apparently exists between himself and the Leader of the Opposition in South Australia, an agreement which is the subject of a press conference now being held by the South Australian Leader of the Opposition? Secondly, have similar discussions been held and a similar agreement reached with the Labor government of South Australia?

ANSWER

I am delighted to be able to say to members of the Labor Party opposite and throughout Australia that we are most keen to see a bipartisan approach to the development and construction of the Alice Springs to Darwin railway. I have always been of that mind, and I even thought it was possible when the Prime Minister made a promise in 1983 that he would build the railway. I even thought it was possible when he made an offer to go 60:40 with the Northern Territory and build the railway late in 1983 or 1984. Even after it said it would never have anything to do with it, I still maintained hope that maybe one day the ALP would weigh in and give support to this project, and I still have hope.

In relation to the communications that I have had with the Premier of South Australia and the Leader of the Opposition in South Australia, I am quite happy to say that I have been approached by the Premier of South Australia who wrote to me and said he is still very supportive of the project and asked us to keep him briefed. I wrote back and said: 'Thank you for your support but, regrettably, you have the problem that you have to do what you are told by Canberra like the rest of them'. The ALP in Australia do what they are told by Canberra or get chucked off the national executive, have their budget cut or whatever. I wrote back a very polite letter to the Premier:

'I am grateful for your moral support. I know that you cannot do anything else because, if you stand up publicly and support it, you will probably have your brains kicked in by your mates in Canberra. I appreciate that you cannot do anything, and I do not expect that much is likely to happen from other members of the Labor Party'.

I am really looking forward to the 5 to 10-year time frame. I have briefed the Leader of the Opposition in South Australia and the opposition in the federal parliament on what the Territory is proposing to do. At least we know where our friends are and from where our help is likely to come when there is a change of government. If there is no change of government, we know what we will get - that is pretty obvious to everybody.

Mr Smith: Mr Bannon has been one of your biggest supporters on this.

Mr TUXWORTH: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition says that Mr Bannon has been one of the biggest supporters we have ever had on the project. He might like to tell us at some time what has ever been said or done by the Labor Party in South Australia to advance the project one inch. We have fought tenaciously with it for years to have the South Road completed. What are the

chances of getting it involved in the completion of the Alice Springs to Darwin railway when it is not even on its side of the border? It is no good the Premier of South Australia walking around saying that railways are great and they support it. That will not get the railway. We need tangible support in terms of money, railway sleepers and freight commitment.

There is one thing that you can rely on from people like John Olsen and John Howard: if they say they will support it, they will. If John Olsen says he will support it, he will not be put off by the fact that some people in Canberra tell him he cannot have it or that it will not work. He has the tenacity to proceed with it. I have not closed off any options so far as John Olsen or John Bannon is concerned. If John Bannon wants to support the railway, he is in government and he has the capacity to support it...

Mr Smith: That is what he has been doing.

Mr TUXWORTH: Oh, baloney! What has he ever done? The Premier of South Australia has walked around mouthing motherhood statements and has never done a thing. I am interested in attracting the support of every politician in Australia and I know that some of them will not even give us a hearing. We will not be put off by that. We will have the railway in place just as the pipeline is in place. I expect that we will have people standing on us from one end of the country to the other. That will not stop us either. If I can solicit some support from the Liberal Party in South Australia, in any other state or federally, I will go out and solicit it because we need all the friends we can get whether they are in opposition or government. It is no good having a friend in government in South Australia if he is not prepared to do anything. It is no good talking about it.

#### Pensioner Concessions

Mr DALE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Will the issue of the NT pensioner cards still be automatic to NT resident males and females on reaching the age of 65 and 60 respectively and, if so, are there any concessions or rebates that will be means tested? Will the pensioner card be sufficient to obtain an NTEC rebate or will, for example, a Commonwealth health card also be required? I believe that the Commonwealth health cards are not issued automatically on reaching pension age and are subject to a means test irrespective of age. Of course, this differs with other social services such as Aboriginal legal aid.

ANSWER

The member for Wanguri is quite correct there. Yesterday, when the Deputy Leader of the Opposition was asking for a lot of statistical information and data, I interjected that he would ask for a bacterial count on the milk of human kindness. It looks like the federal government is heading that way also. The Commonwealth health cards are not issued automatically any more and they are subject to means testing.

The Pensioner Concession Scheme which has been run by the Northern Territory government is an excellent scheme. We are anxious to promote that scheme. The aged pensioner population in the Northern Territory is now our second-fastest-growing group of people in the Northern Territory. It is growing at about 6% per annum. As a result of what we believe could have been described as misuse of the Pensioner Concession Scheme, my department



conducted a review. That review of the scheme was the subject of a Cabinet submission currently being circulated for comment. Whilst not pre-empting consideration of the review by my Cabinet colleagues, members should be aware that there are a number of anomalies and inequities in the current scheme. They have been addressed by the Cabinet submission, and the matter should be considered by my colleagues within the next 3 weeks. An announcement regarding changes to the scheme will be made shortly after. Members should also be aware that a separate Cabinet submission on the redevelopment of the electricity pensioner concession scheme is currently awaiting Cabinet consideration and a decision on that will also be made shortly.

The eligibility criteria under the present scheme is simply that women must have had their sixtieth birthday and men must have had their sixty-fifth birthday. I spoke before of inequalities and that is one that must be addressed shortly. I am not sure whether to go up or down on that one. Applicants must have an Australian birth certificate or, in the case of migrants or refugees, a passport or some other document which suggests that they have reached that age and have lived in the Northern Territory for 9 months. These pensioner concessions apply to spectacles, motor vehicle registration, drivers' licence, council and land rates, basic water and sewerage rates, electricity accounts, garbage charges and travel concessions. All those matters have been addressed in the 2 Cabinet submissions. I will be able to advise members as soon as my Cabinet colleagues have considered the recommendations within the next 3 weeks.

#### Central Australian Aboriginal Pastoral Association

Mr EDE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

He will be aware of the desire of Aboriginal cattlemen in central Australia to develop their cattle stations to place them on an economically viable basis and the history of their attempts to achieve this through the Central Australian Aboriginal Pastoral Association. What assistance can his government provide to ensure the survival of the Central Australian Aboriginal Pastoral Association?

ANSWER

I am aware of the member's concerns in respect of the Central Australian Aboriginal Pastoral Association. It is pleasing to have a situation where we can work together in dealing with the problems. CAAPA, as it is known, has been set up to assist Aboriginal organisations in the development and management of their pastoral properties in central Australia. No doubt, it has experienced some difficult times in its development but it is constructively assisting Aboriginal pastoral organisations to develop effective property management practices on what are, in many cases, very marginal properties.

It is working in cooperation with the Northern Territory Department of Primary Production in central Australia. It has been pleasing to see this very constructive effort. Far too often we hear of the problems that exist with Aboriginal people and relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. It is pleasing to see that Aboriginal people are genuinely working to develop a viable economic base and to create long-term jobs for Aboriginal people.

Mr Ede: It is worthy of support.

Mr HATTON: It most certainly is worthy of support. It was very disturbing this year to find - and I might say that this organisation was being supplied with finance through the ADC - that, in midstream, the financial assistance to enable these properties to be developed adequately was cut off at the knees. These properties are underdeveloped and need development to ensure proper B-TEC controls. They had working capital chopped off when they had every reason to expect that there would be funding available.

Over the last months, I have spoken with the member for Stuart about this at some length. The Department of Primary Production is examining ways in which it may be able to help. A range of extension services is available, and these pastoral organisations, like other pastoralists, are entitled to take advantage of them. The regional director in our southern division is working to see if we can introduce a more organised method of supporting CAAPA. Nonetheless, the real difficulty is how these properties can develop the initial basic funding to provide them with the capital infrastructure to make them viable.

Unfortunately, I cannot give a clear answer today, but I can assure the member that I am giving my best attention to this problem because I for one would dearly like to see those properties in central Australia brought into productivity and to see the Aboriginal people, who have long-term job and career prospects, becoming contributors to primary industry in the Northern Territory.

#### Yulara Occupancy Levels

Mr VALE to MINISTER for TOURISM

Can he advise the Assembly of the current occupancy levels of the various accommodation facilities at Yulara?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I welcome the question from the member for Braintree because I have been sitting here for an hour hoping that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition would ask that question because he has been making so much play during the course of the week about figures at Yulara. During the course of the budget debate, I provided information to the member. In fact, I remember him hanging his head down at the time. I actually asked him to write down the information because he said he did not have it.

In answer to the member's question, the statistics as far as Yulara is concerned - and I will take it slowly so that he may grasp it and ...

Mr Bell: Which member?

Mr DONDAS: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition can take this information down so that this particular question will not be raised again. The object of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition was to highlight the gloom and doom that surrounded the Yulara Sheraton as far as its occupancy rates were concerned. However, the occupancy rates for this year were: January - 14.4%; February - 15.8%; March - 25.9%; April - 33.3%; May - 39.4%; June - 35%; July - 53.2%; August - 60.1%; September - 51.2%; and October - 53.2%. It is easy to see that there has been a substantial increase in the occupancy levels of the Sheraton.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition said yesterday that that was really at the expense of the Four Seasons. Let us have a look at the Four Seasons occupancy rates for the same period. We have a couple of minutes to go. They are as follows: January - 42.4%; February - 51.9%; March - 60.1%; April - 70.1%; June - 77.4%; July - 86.8%; August - 93.2%; September - 85.9%; and October - 78.5%. It is not hard to see that, considering it is still early days, the Four Seasons is doing well. It is much the same with the Sheraton. The Sheraton has not been operating for a whole year, but its occupancy rates are improving slowly. Now that the Sheraton group has the Alice Springs Sheraton in place, and once the Darwin Sheraton is established, its operations can only prosper. During the course of the Assembly sittings, I said that the Alice Springs Sheraton has had an occupancy rate of 43.2%. I would ask him to write that down as well.

Yesterday, he also said that other motels in that particular area were finding it a bit difficult, especially those ones which received some funding from the Northern Territory Development Corporation to provide their infrastructure. But I also said that the Sheraton's occupancy rate after 2 months was 43% at an average per capita cost of \$66 per night. So it is not difficult to work out that it is providing incentives especially since the top-of-the-range rooms cost \$120 and \$130. He tried to infer yesterday that the Gap Motor Hotel, for example, which has a Northern Territory Development Corporation loan, will find it a bit hard to repay the NTDC. However, what the member did not say was that we expect our tourism figures to increase in the 1985-86 financial year by some 65 000 people. According to our tourism monitors for the last quarter, we are on target for that influx.

Of course, because of Halley's Comet, special committees have been set up to organise the additional accommodation that will be required next year whether it be of a temporary or permanent nature. It has also provided an opportunity for Tennant Creek to provide additional infrastructure for the future because it is short of accommodation.

In terms of occupancy, the Sheraton Hotel at Ayers Rock will have better figures in 1986. I know that the occupancy figure for the Sheraton in Alice Springs will be much better than predicted. We knew that it would be about 19.1%. That was the early assumption to which the member referred yesterday. Yet, after 2 months of operation, the Alice Springs Sheraton has an occupancy rate of 43%. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition has never held a positive view of the occupancy rate of the Sheraton group. Every now and then, he throws in the casinos because that is a good drawcard for the press and everybody else, but the facts of the matter are that the tourism monitor and the figures that have been given to us for the last quarter indicate that tourism in the Northern Territory is a flourishing industry.

Central Mount Stuart Access Road

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will the Northern Territory government consider the possibility of providing an access road to Central Mount Stuart from the Stuart Highway or Willowra Road to open up this well-known geographical feature for the local and touring public?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the provision of access to Central Mount Stuart has been actively considered for several years. The possibility of constructing a ring road was raised in 1983. In 1984, a scheme detailing 2 alternative routes, one from the Stuart Highway and one from the Willowra Road, was prepared and forwarded for comment to government authorities, property owners and the Ti Tree Progress Association. The consensus was favourable with varying preferences for the different options. The government preference is for an access road to be constructed from the Stuart Highway. This proposed route offers better scenic views of Central Mount Stuart from the south-east and minimises the length of the road to be constructed. It would be 8 km, compared with 54 km for a ring road. The estimated cost of constructing an access road and a substantial river crossing over the Hanson River is about \$500 000. Obviously, it will be subject to normal Northern Territory government capital works programming arrangements. On 18 September, the Australian Bicentennial Authority advised the Chief Minister that the project was being considered as a bicentennial project but recent advice from the Bicentennial Authority indicates that assistance will be given in the form of planting a bit of grass and trees and erecting some barbeques. In line with that, the project will be considered under normal constraints.

The government obviously recognises the geographical significance of the project and most certainly the access road will be considered in 1986-87 budget deliberations.

Stock Exchange for the Northern Territory

Mr SMITH to MINISTER for INDUSTRY and SMALL BUSINESS

In September, the minister issued a press release indicating that, in October, he expected to be able to publish a report the government had commissioned on the desirability of a stock exchange for the Northern Territory. What has happened to that report and when can we expect to see it?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, in answer to the member's question, only today I signed a request for Cabinet to consider the introduction of a secondary stock exchange.

Berry Springs Zoo

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for CONSERVATION

At what stage is the construction of the Berry Springs Zoo?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, officers of the Northern Territory Conservation Commission have been developing a wildlife park, known as the Berry Springs Zoo, which is located adjacent to the Berry Springs Recreation Reserve. It is the only major zoo under construction in Australia at the moment and it is attracting quite a deal of attention. It is unique in another aspect in that it is a zoo which will accommodate native fauna only, in particular fauna that is native to the Northern Territory. As a result, we shall have a particular role in bringing an understanding of the fauna of the Northern Territory to the attention of Territorians and visitors to the Northern Territory.

As of 1 November 1985, the expenditure on the zoo has totalled \$1.8m in works completed to date. These works have included domestic water services, irrigation, sewerage mains, a reservoir, a rising main, both underground and overhead power supply, security yard, perimeter fences, a workshop and hayshed, the holding nursery and quarantine blocks, the zoo kitchen, entrance building, staff amenities block and 2 houses. At present, not very much above-the-ground activity is visible but virtually all of the below-ground and preparatory work has been completed.

Work is progressing, as planned for this financial year, on the nocturnal house, internal roads, a lagoon and aviaries, as well as landscaping works. In other words, work is now proceeding above ground towards the development of display areas. Exhibits will continue to be developed in future years and it is expected that the target opening date of 1988 will be achieved. Parts of the complex, such as the nocturnal house, may be open to the public considerably earlier than that, with the object of putting on display some of the facilities as they become available. Also this will bring to the attention of the community more readily what is occurring at Berry Springs Zoo as it is a matter that does not seem to receive much attention and there does not seem to be much community knowledge of what is going on there.

Acquisition of animal stock for the zoo will be a continuing process and will take several years as a wide variety of species is involved and some research will be necessary on the less common or infrequently held species. The completion of the stock-holding block has meant that the collection can commence as soon as experienced staff becomes available. At present, 4 full-time staff are employed, with assistance available from other areas of the Conservation Commission as required.

When the complex is fully operational, it is expected that some 21 people will be employed on the complete range of zoo activities. I take this opportunity to commend formally the staff of the Conservation Commission who are involved with the development of this complex, and to reaffirm the government's commitment to the project. Recently, we were visited by a gentleman who has a high interest in nature. I refer to Lord McAlpine, who is particularly well known in the Broome area. In that area, Lord McAlpine has carried out quite an amazing amount of work and the town is developing dramatically. It is true that he has planted 100 mature boab trees around a particular aviary and wildlife park development in the Broome area.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The honourable minister is not responsible for Western Australia.

Mr HATTON: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The point that I wanted to make was that, during a recent visit to the Northern Territory, Lord McAlpine went out

of his way to comment on the excellent work that has been done and to convey his excitement about our project. I think that will be reflected by the people of the Northern Territory as they see the project on public display.

#### Survey of Recreational Fishing in NT

Mr FIRMIN to MINISTER for PORTS and FISHERIES

Can he give details of the survey of recreational fishing in the Northern Territory he announced is being carried out and can he say when a report is expected to be made?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, members will be aware from press comments that we have been conducting quite extensive work this year in trying to resolve the very complex and difficult problems associated with the barramundi fishery in the Northern Territory. The Northern Territory has been working for many years to resolve the issue of recreational fishing and commercial fishing whilst ensuring also that we can protect the long-term viability of the barramundi stocks. They have been placed under increasing pressure as a consequence of large amounts of commercial effort and increasing efforts in the recreational fishery. Our preliminary research indicates that some 20% to 23% of the effort in barramundi is actually coming from recreational fishermen.

The Task Force into the Barramundi Fishery which operated this year clearly revealed a significant lack of knowledge and detail in the recreational fishery, and what effect it might be having on the total fishery. We have commissioned a survey, partially funded by the Fishing Industry Research and Development Trust Fund, to be carried out over a period of 2 years to obtain as close and detailed an assessment of the recreational fishery as we can.

The services of a Mr W. Coburn have been obtained from the Department of Community Development to investigate and report on all aspects of the recreational fishery in the Territory. The report will contain recommendations on the development and management of this resource in the Territory for the benefit of international, interstate and local amateur fishermen and businessmen connected with the industry.

As I mentioned, an allocation has been obtained from the Fishing Industry Research and Development Trust Fund in the order of \$60 000 and the survey, to be carried out in 1986, will include ascertaining levels of participation in the sport and its social and economic effect within the Territory. The Department of Ports and Fisheries will carry out a series of roadside surveys in 1986 to determine catch rates etc. Mr Coburn will be contacting organisations involved in recreational and commercial fishing to determine their attitudes towards the development and management of the industry.

At the end of that survey, it would be the intention to develop management procedures and practices that are necessary to ensure that, whilst recreational fishing can and will continue as an important part of this particular fishery, the species will not be brought under threat as a consequence.

### Cost of Alice Springs to Darwin Railway

Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I refer to his claim on Territory Extra this morning that \$600m was an exaggerated figure for the construction of the Alice Springs to Darwin railway, and to the CIBC further preliminary figures which assumed, in 1985 dollars, a figure of \$661m for construction of the railway. Can he now claim that a figure of \$600m for that construction is exaggerated?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, clearly a question on financial details of the construction of the railway could be answered better by the Treasurer. However, I pointed out in that interview that no firm costs could be established in relation to what the final figure would be because many variations related to it, including the type of material used in the construction, the specifications used, the construction time, the rates of interest prevailing at the time, inflation rates and so on. There are so many possible variations that I would not be game to put any figure on it. Financial matters such as that are the province of the Treasurer.

### Income from Mereenie Pipeline

Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What level of income is expected to be generated into the Northern Territory's coffers from royalties when the Mereenie pipeline opens in central Australia?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, we have received increased royalty revenue into the Treasury since production started at Mereenie over 12 months ago. Probably members will be aware that revenue from oil production is related to the flow rates of the oil which, in turn, is related to the type of field, methods of extraction, the number of wells and so on. Until the oil pipeline was commissioned in the last few days, although not opened, our royalty was affected by the cost of transportation of the oil to a railhead at Alice Springs where, for the period of the first year, it had to be transported by road. This was significantly more expensive than transporting it by pipeline and some allowance was made in our royalty rate for the additional expenses the company incurred in that regard.

The last constraint on production levels, which affects the Northern Territory levels of royalty, is the federal crude oil levy. Profitability from the Mereenie field is poor by comparison with the high-producing fields of Bass Strait, around which the Commonwealth crude oil levy was designed originally. When the production level reaches 5000 barrels per day - which is no problem for the big fellows down south - the levy rises to more than \$7 for each barrel over 5000. With total production and transportation costs well in excess of \$20 per barrel, levy charges at something like \$7 per barrel, royalty charges to the Territory government and heavy capital investment for servicing, it is not surprising that the producers at Mereenie are reluctant to produce at levels which will attract that incremental royalty rate which applies to production levels of more than 5000 barrels per day. It is cheaper for Mereenie to leave the oil in the ground and lengthen the

duration of activity in the field. Thus, the Territory's fortunes are influenced in this area by Commonwealth policy.

To be specific about the income to the Territory, during the 1984-85 financial year, royalty revenue from the field was \$814 635, give or take a few cents. Revenue for the first 4 months of this financial year exceeded \$765 000 and we expect revenue for the full year to lie in the range of \$3.2m to \$4.3m. It would be nice to have several of these little oil fields. In future financial years, we expect revenue to run at between \$5m and \$6m per year. Revenue projections are dependent on the sale price of Mereenie crude and this is dependent upon the world market for petroleum and the strength of the Australian dollar. My figures assume no change in those variables.

The project is certainly a big money-spinner for the Northern Territory. In fact, when we consider that the gas content of the field is probably on the same scale as the Palm Valley reservoir and that the numbers I have been talking about relate to oil production only, we can really start to appreciate the magnitude of this resource and its value to the people of the Territory and the companies which are exploiting it.

#### Dog Problem

Mr DALE to the MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

During the last sittings of the Assembly, he undertook to take action regarding uncontrolled dogs. Following recent incidents in the northern suburbs resulting in injuries to residents, what action has he taken?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this is a very serious matter. It has become more serious over the last several weeks. It appears that a day does not go by when somebody is not bitten by a dog or harassed in some way by a dog. I spoke at the last sittings about the member for Millner who had this particular problem. It is not exclusive to his electorate nor to him personally.

Mr Ede: Alice Springs.

Mr COULTER: Yes, Alice Springs has a problem, particularly with the town council's boundaries. It seems there is quite a bit of border crossing by dogs in that electorate. They go through the Gap to the town camps surrounding the area. They become free again. I have made some administrative arrangements to enable dog catchers in Alice Springs to pursue dogs out into the surrounding areas. This is proving somewhat effective.

Just recently, a Mr McGufficke was badly injured as a result of a dog attack. I have been to the Chief Minister. Substantial amendments will be made to the Dog Act to make it more enforceable and to take account of the practical difficulties of enforcing that legislation. The major changes which are to be made will be to treat every dog which is in a public place without a registration tag as an unregistered dog and to provide for on-the-spot notices to be issued to an owner where a dog has committed a minor breach as an alternative to impounding it. There will be no alligator clips on the ears and the dog sent home with the fine tagged to it, but there will be meaningful reform in this regard. I believe it can operate. It will be an offence for a dog to be at large; that is, where a dog is not at its owner's residence or is not under effective control. That has been defined. The draft is in final



stages of preparation. When it is suitable, formal discussions will be held with the canine organisations and associations, local councils and other groups with an interest in this matter.

The problem has become so acute that I have gone to the Chief Minister to ask for priority legislation in this regard. I have had it moved forward on the legislation list. I believe that, in the next sittings, we will be able to introduce this legislation. I hope that it has the support of all members, particularly in our trade, because it is an occupational hazard for us all.

#### Ti Tree Shootings

Mr EDE to CHIEF MINISTER

In the adjournment debate last night, he made a bitter attack on the call by central Aboriginal organisations for a judicial inquiry into the Ti Tree killings. In particular, he castigated them for 'waiting 5½ years before making this call'. Is it true that, as the case has been sub judice for virtually that whole period, the organisations were acting quite properly in waiting until the case was settled? How does he justify taking advice from the Police Commissioner before deciding on whether to launch a judicial inquiry into the activities of police?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would just like to put the record straight. I did not make a bitter attack on people. I was not referring to the Ti Tree killings. As I heard it, the member just said 'killings'. As I understand it, 1 person was killed. In respect of advice I take, I will take it from those members of the public service who I believe will give me correct and proper advice and lead the government to do things that are legal and proper at all times.

#### Video Classifications

Mr D.W COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

What is the current position on the classification of videos, restricted areas and other related matters?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, members will recall we passed legislation through this Assembly not long ago, part of the provisions of which required that an agreement be entered into between the Northern Territory government and the Commonwealth for the latter to act as our film censorship board. It is a practice adopted in the states so that we do not have 7 or 8 censorship systems in the country. The Commonwealth-Northern Territory agreement has not been able to be signed because the Commonwealth must first amend some customs regulations to accommodate the agreement. Of course, we would all appreciate that the bureaucracy down there runs pretty slowly.

Under that legislation, there was a requirement for X and R-rated video material to be displayed in a separately enclosed area within a video outlet. Over the past several months, the federal government has had a joint select committee of federal parliament considering the very future of the likes of X and R-rated material. That joint select committee has not reported yet. It is hard to know exactly what it will do. Rumour has it that it will ban

X-rated material from coming into Australia. There has been a suggestion that it should ban R-rated material as well. That would not go down too well. It may allow material into the country if the states legislate along the lines that we legislated so that X-rated material is displayed separately. At the present time, I have declined to enforce those sections of the legislation which compel video outlets to have a separate area because it would be most improper for us to insist upon them going to that expense if, indeed, in the not-too-distant future, it was decided that they could not even trade in some of these classifications at all.

The final stages of a publicity campaign are being prepared on the subject of educating the community as to what the various classifications mean, particularly to educate parents on exactly what the G, PG and M ratings really mean. To that extent, we have had a TV advertisement made which must run the gauntlet of the Film Censorship Board and the Federation of Australian Commercial Television Stations which might give us a hard time on it. I am awaiting word from them now.

#### Ti Tree Shootings

Mr EDE to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer him to my previous question. Will he agree to refer this matter to the Attorney-General who is the chief law officer of the Northern Territory.

ANSWER

No, I will not be referring it to the Attorney-General.

#### Alice Springs Oil Spillage

Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

My question follows recent publicity in Alice Springs about a so-called oil spillage into the Todd River from the Alice Springs power-house. What steps has NTEC taken to clean up the oil spillage and prevent a similar occurrence?

ANSWER

I have been advised that traffic in the vicinity of the Alice Springs power-station apparently caused an underground pipe to fracture. This was not realised until oil began seeping through the ground. By that time, some 3000 L of distillate had escaped. That is the pollution to which the member refers. NTEC sought advice from the Water Division and a number of inspection holes were dug in the area to locate the spilled distillate. Where such distillate was discovered, it was pumped out of the soil and the remaining affected soil was removed.

Recently, another patch of contaminated soil was discovered near the drain outlet on the Todd River bank when water in the area evaporated, exposing the affected area. NTEC took immediate steps to engage a contractor to clean up the area, and again sought expert advice from the Water Division. All previous inspection holes were reopened and another detailed examination of the area undertaken. Distillate is still being pumped out of one of these inspection holes.

While this particular problem was directly related to a fractured underground pipe, NTEC has been concerned for some time that open industrial drains in the area may be inadequate. Accordingly, NTEC engaged private consultants to draw up specifications for construction of additional oil traps and for extension of the concrete lining to some of these drains. Steps have been taken to install special oil-absorbing ropes into existing drains. These ropes, as their name implies, absorb any oil entering the industrial drains and prevent it travelling further.

I should explain that, under normal circumstances, any spillages from NTEC tanks are directed to holding ponds. Only the clear water on top of the holding ponds is directed into drains which lead to the Todd River. The use of oil-absorbing rope and the additional work to be carried out are designed to further strengthen preventative measures aimed at ensuring oil from holding ponds does not enter these drains. NTEC is continuing to monitor the situation, working closely with the Water Division, and I assure members that NTEC will take the necessary steps to minimise any further problems.

#### Industrial Dispute at Alice Springs Prison

Mr VALE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Can he advise on the current status of the industrial dispute concerning the prison officers in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the industrial dispute at Alice Springs continues. The prison officers met at 8 o'clock this morning and decided to withdraw their labour. I would like to commend the senior prison officers who are administering the prison at the moment. I can assure members from Alice Springs that they are in no danger at all. There are no security problems within the prison as a result of the strike.

I would like to mention that this strike is in direct contravention of an agreement which was struck on January this year. The union and the Prison Officers Association are the co-signatories to this particular agreement which simply says that, whilst procedures are under way for conveying a grievance to the government, employees are to remain on the job. If such agreements cannot last even for 12 months, it does not offer us much in terms of industrial harmony in the Northern Territory. I am saying to the prison officers that, if they have a grievance, they ought to go back to work while we have a look at it.

While I am on this subject, we were to have talked about the Apsey Report at this sittings. Unfortunately, it looks like it may now be postponed until March. At the heart of this dispute is an issue of demarcation which has arisen because a woman was working on number 3 post, which is the main gate of the prison.

Apsey says this on page 271: 'Experience throughout Australia and the world has demonstrated that female prison officers have been employed to great advantage in male and female prisons'. He goes on in some detail to outline the advantages of female prison officers who must undergo the same rigorous training as the male officers. He recommends that women should be welcomed as applicants for all prison officer positions in both male and female sections

of the prison and the position should be filled on the basis of selecting the most suitable candidate without reference to sex. He also said that a clear policy should be developed which defines those very limited areas of prison officer work which should not be undertaken by female prison officers. An example is strip-searching males. I have seen with my own eyes the effect that women can have on male prisoners and I believe they go a long way towards promoting good conduct. The number 3 gate is not considered to be a position of high risk. In fact, there is a senior prison officer on duty with the female prison officer. The other staff - the superintendent, his deputy and the chief prison officer - sit adjacent to the main gate in this courtyard area.

I still believe that this is a non-negotiable issue. The government is an equal opportunity employer and we will not allow any discrimination in this regard. This wildcat strike - and that is all it can be described as - is a flagrant breach of section 7 of the 38-hour week agreement which was set in January of this year.

Another condition that the prison officers asked for was guaranteed overtime. No award that I know of will guarantee any overtime. This government has paid out over \$112 000 in overtime at the Alice Springs Prison in the last 9 pay weeks. I believe that we must go back to the agreement that was signed by the parties in January of this year, and then resolve these particular issues.

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