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## PART II

### THE QUESTION PAPER

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

FROM 21 NOVEMBER 1978

90 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Why is the content of fluoride in the water at Katherine higher than that as recommended by the Department of Health?

200 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Why have the Construction Safety Act and Regulations not yet been given a commencing date?
2. When is the act likely to come into effect?

201 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND WORKS

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

FROM 27 FEBRUARY 1979

228 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will he advise what is the policy of his government on the future development of the Alice Springs Community College?

256 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will he advise what is the policy of the NT government on the future of Aboriginal residential colleges in the Territory?

Will Yirara Aboriginal College at Alice Springs be funded and supported as a residential college by the NT government when responsibility for Education is transferred in 1979?

If so, will Yirara College be funded adequately to continue its educational and residential program for young Aboriginal students?

260 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for HEALTH

As grave concern is felt that general practitioners in private practice in Katherine will not be able to compete with the Northern Territory Department of Health after 1 January 1979, will the Minister reassure private practitioners that they will be able to compete?

266 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY SERVICES

Can the Katherine district office of the Department of Social Security issue cheques in an emergency?

268 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Did the Prime Minister write to the Chief Minister during 1978 concerning the proposal by the Heritage Commission to proclaim the Alligator Rivers Region as part of the National Heritage.
2. If so, on what dates?
3. Did the Chief Minister respond?

4. If so, on what dates.

5. Did the Chief Minister object to the proposal?

6. If so, on what terms?

275 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What assistance or encouragement is being given to production of stock feed for horses, cattle, pigs and poultry in the Territory?

278 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. What is the establishment of -

(a) the Animal Industry; and

(b) the Agriculture,

sections of the Primary Industry Division?

2. Where are the various officers stationed?

3. How many of these officers are involved on field work?

279 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What was the cost of operation during the past five years of each of the research stations and experiment farms in the Northern Territory?

283 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that all the salt pans in the Northern Territory are on Aboriginal land?

FROM 6 MARCH 1979

288 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Have tests been carried out to measure the noise levels caused by traffic on Bagot Road?

2. If so, what are the results of those tests, and how do they compare with recognised standards for acceptable noise levels?

3. Have tests been carried out to measure the noise levels caused by aircraft in the Ludmilla area?

4. If so, what are the results of those tests, and how do they compare with recognised standards for acceptable noise levels?

312 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has a decision been taken on the type of vehicle which will replace the present Holden pursuit vehicles of the Traffic Branch?

2. Will these vehicles be air conditioned?

3. Has consideration been given by the Department to supplying its officers with personal sidearms instead of the current practice of officers purchasing their own sidearms?

342 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is it a fact that he has written to the Prime Minister requesting the transfer of the Aboriginal housing function to the NT government?
2. If this is the case, has the Prime Minister replied and what are the terms of his reply?

343 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Can the Minister advise the current position of the \$150,000 advanced by the NT government to V.B. Quinton?

362 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

How much has been spent by the NT government on advertising promotion for the Government Insurance Office and the charges and benefits of the new Compulsory Third Party scheme announced on Monday 5 February 1979?

363 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is he aware that some parents have expressed a need for suitable bus shelters to be established around Alice Springs for schoolchildren?
2. Has consideration been given by the Department of Education to the provision of suitable bus shelters?
3. Will bus shelters be provided for schoolchildren in the Alice Springs area?

364 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is it a fact that the display of material that is racist in the Northern Territory does not constitute an unlawful act of racial discrimination within the terms of Racial Discrimination Act 1975?
2. Is it a fact that when Australia ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination it did not declare as offences punishable by law the dissemination of ideas of racial superiority or racial hatred?
3. What action, if any, will be taken by the NT government to encourage the Federal government to change the Racial Discrimination Act 1975 to enable firm action to be taken in respect of people who propagate racist views which are aimed at or have the result of dividing the community on racial or ethnic grounds in the NT?
4. Will the NT government legislate to deal with racism or racial discrimination specifically occurring with the NT?

365 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is Mrs June Tapp of Killarney Station subsidised by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs to advise Aboriginals on community work?
2. If so, when was Mrs Tapp appointed to this position and what is the amount of subsidy paid per annum?
3. What amount has she received since her employment to advise Aboriginals?

4. What are her duties and responsibilities in this position and to whom is she responsible?
5. Has she provided regular reports to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs on her work since she became subsidised?
6. Is the subsidy likely to continue indefinitely?

366 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Will the remainder of the road into Standley Chasm be sealed and bituminized?
2. If so, when?

367 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Have detailed studies been carried out on the suitability of the Todd River site north of the Old Telegraph Station as a recreational lake for Alice Springs?
2. If so, what are the results?
3. What advantages does this site have over other locations?
4. Have environmental impact studies been carried out on this site?
5. If so, what are the results?
6. What is the estimated cost of the recreational lake itself?
7. What other recreational facilities will be provided at the recreational lake?
8. What is the estimated cost of these facilities?
9. What specific employment opportunities can be provided with the establishment of a recreational lake?

368 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to the Federal government's proposal to tax royalties paid to Aboriginals from mining developments in the NT and ask:

1. Will mining royalties paid to Aboriginal land owners in the NT be taxed 32 cents out of each \$5?
2. If so, why?
3. Is it a fact that State or Territory government mining royalties are not taxed by Federal government?
4. Will mining royalties which are paid to Aboriginal Land Councils be used for non-profit community advancement projects?
5. If so, why are royalties for non-profit community development being taxed?

# ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

## 3 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. How many persons are currently employed in the NT Library Service, in which classifications, and in which branches of the library service?
2. How many staff will be required for the new Casuarina library?
3. When will these staff be employed?
4. When is the new Casuarina library expected to open?
5. What is the book stock required for the Casuarina library?
6. When is it anticipated that these books will be processed and available for the Casuarina library?

## ANSWER

### 1. Total staff 35

Central services -	Principal Librarian	1	
	Librarian Class 3	1	
	Librarian Class 2	2	
	Librarian Class 1	3	
	(2 of whom are on HDA Class 2)		
	Library Officer Grade 1	1	
	Clerk Class 5	1	
	Admin. A3	1	
	Admin. A1	8	
	Admin. A1 (part-time)	1	
	Typist Grade 1	2	
	Storeman	<u>1</u>	22
Darwin Public Library -	Admin. A4	1	
	Admin. A3	2	
	Admin. A1	<u>2</u>	5
Nightcliff Public Library -	Admin. A4	1	
	Admin. A1 (part-time)	<u>1</u>	2
Nhulunbuy Public Library -	Admin. A4		1
Katherine Public Library -	Admin. A1 (part-time)		1
Tennant Creek Public Library -	Admin. A1 (part-time)		1
Alice Springs Public Library -	Librarian Class 1	1	
	Admin. A3	1	
	Admin. A1	<u>1</u>	3
			<u>35</u>

2. The appropriate staffing level for the Casuarina library is still under review. Seven initial positions are currently being created and recruitment action is in progress.
3. New staff will be employed progressively as the need develops.

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

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4. The Casuarina library is presently expected to open about September 1979.
5. The book stock which is needed will depend on public demand and any future population increase in this area, but is expected to be in excess of 50,000 volumes.
6. The book stock will be progressively processed and made available in the new library. The Casuarina staff to be appointed shortly will be engaged on this task.

5 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What is preventing the occupation of transportable units by inmates of the Old Timers' Home in Katherine?

ANSWER

This matter is the responsibility of the Minister for Lands and Housing, and, provided the honourable member for Elsey agrees, my colleague will respond to the question.

89 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

What efforts have been made to recruit Aborigines to the Police Force and the Defence Forces?

ANSWER

The Police Force is actively seeking to recruit members from all sections of the Northern Territory community. Attempts have been made to encourage interest by Aboriginal people in police employment and senior officers are currently engaged in visits to suitable educational institutions in an endeavour to promote this interest.

The advertising conducted nationally has been extended through every Aboriginal community and police stations on settlements also advertised the availability of positions.

The Police Administration Bill provides employment of police aides. The concept of engaging Aborigines as aides with a view to their subsequent entry into the Police Force is currently under consideration. Also under review is the performance of police trackers to identify likely prospects.

An application by an Aboriginal is currently being processed.

92 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Now that the water resources survey is completed, does he intend to make public the government's intention to provide good quality water in the Katherine area?

ANSWER

I announced the government's intentions for Katherine water supply in a press statement in October. Briefly this said that we had decided to proceed with the development of a soft water supply for Katherine. The scheme involves the construction of an intake at Donkey Camp on the river, a filtration plant and a pipeline. Some further investigations are proceeding into details of the filtration plant and other related matters. It is

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

expected the earliest date for calling tenders for the whole job will be July 1979.

94 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How much beef was imported into the Northern Territory during the years 1973-4, 1974-5, 1975-6, 1976-7?

### ANSWER

As there is no legal requirement for importers from interstate to provide such statistics, I regret I am unable to assist the honourable member.

98 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. How many betting shops were operating in the Northern Territory on 1/10/78?
2. In what localities were these shops operating, and how many were there in each locality?
3. How many full-time employees were working in Northern Territory betting shops on 1/10/78?
4. How many part-time employees were working in Northern Territory betting shops on 1/10/78?
5. How many betting shops are now opening on fewer days and providing fewer services than was the case on 1/6/78?
6. Which services have been reduced since 1/6/78?

### ANSWER

1. On 1 October 1978 there were thirty betting shops operating in the Northern Territory.
2. These shops were operating in the following locations - Darwin 17, Alice Springs 5, Katherine 3, Tennant Creek 3, Nhulunbuy 1 and Groote Eylandt 1.
3. On 1 October 1978 there were 38 full-time employees working in Northern Territory betting shops.
4. On 1 October 1978 there were 83 part-time employees working in Northern Territory betting shops.
5. There are 12 betting shops which reported that at 1 October 1978 they were opening on fewer days and providing fewer services than was the case on 1 June 1978.
6. The services which were reduced varied according to the circumstances. Four shops reported closing for mid-week or evening meetings because there was not sufficient business; four no longer offered quinellas; three had stopped place-cards; and three no longer offered each way doubles. Three shops reported that their upper limit of bets had been reduced and one had recuded the SP limit. Two shops had lifted their minimum bet from \$1 to \$2, One bookmaker, in Alice Springs, no longer sponsored a radio program which broadcast trotting races.



103 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is he aware that James Cook University, Townsville, will open a faculty of tropical veterinary science in 1979 in addition to the faculty of tropical medicine opened in 1978?

When he assumes full responsibility for education in the Territory, does he intend establishing a local university college containing faculties of tropical medicine, tropical veterinary science and tropical agricultural science?

ANSWER

Question 1: Yes.

Question 2: The NT government does not envisage the establishment of a university college in the Territory in the foreseeable future. The practicality, however, of developing university-level programs specifically related to Northern Territory needs will have to be determined over time, perhaps in conjunction with institutions such as James Cook University. Initially it may be more appropriate to establish in the Territory a Centre for Development Studies which would both serve an immediate purpose and indicate the likely success of permanent high-level courses. Such a centre would offer facilities for short term inquiries and training at a high level directly related to matters of concern to tropical Australia and neighbouring countries in the region. Such an enterprise would involve minimal capital outlay, give maximum flexibility in response to identified needs and give a valuable opportunity for developing that regional involvement which both the Northern Territory and Commonwealth governments see as of high priority.

105 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Does mail carried by air attract special low charges and on a first priority basis, or does it have to compete with air freight at higher charges?

ANSWER

Australia Post have advised me that mail carried by air is at a special rate negotiated by Australia Post and the airline concerned. This rate is lower than for normal air freight and the requirements are that it be carried on a first priority basis.

107 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In view of the sophisticated machinery in the offices of the Motor Vehicle Registry and the number of personnel employed there, why is it necessary for a car owner to wait up to 55 minutes to effect a simple uncomplicated car registration?

ANSWER

The Motor Vehicle Registry operation is computerized, with all records now stored on ADP and the production of most licensing and registration documents is printed directly from ADP records.

Due to high staff turnover over recent months, there has been a breakdown in some procedures due to insufficient training.

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

A review of existing operations is currently being completed with progressive improvements to the basic procedures being implemented. Additional ADP equipment for use in the Motor Vehicle Registry is on order to reduce the customer waiting time, which together with streamlined procedures, will improve overall efficiency.

In the next few months these improvements will lead to a greater reduction of waiting time for all business transactions in the Motor Vehicle Registry.

110 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What was the cost of air charter for the Administrator in the financial year 1977-78?

ANSWER

Nil.

111 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS?

Who owns each taxi licence currently on issue in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

In accordance with records held at the Motor Vehicle Registry, Darwin, Public Hire Car licences currently on issue in the Northern Territory are held by the following:

### Public Hire Cars as at 14 November 1978

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name &amp; Address</u>	<u>Licence No.</u>	<u>Expiry Date</u>
H1	Saado Diab ABU-ASSI 2/248 Trower Road, Casuarina	1457	4/04/79
H3	Alan & Tsui Lin WU 24 Armidale Street, Darwin	1474	11/08/79
H4	Fransico PEREIRA 37 Cardo Crescent, Ludmilla	1477	25/05/79
H5	Thomas & Peggy CHIN 1 Goldsmith Street, Fannie Bay	1436	12/09/79
H6	Gary CHIN 7 Tudawali Street, Ludmilla	1433	26/04/79
H7	Stanley & Katherine WILSON 5 Douglas Street, Fannie Bay	1460	8/05/79
H8	Michael KATOPE 5 Bambra Crescent, Darwin	1494	10/02/79
H9	James HILLS 17 Sandalwood Street, Nightcliff	1493	11/07/79
H10	Rui DIAS 31 Bougainvillia Street, Nightcliff	1420	26/09/79
H11	John CASTRISSIOS 51 Knuckey Street, Darwin	1420	26/09/79
H12	Brian MEASEY & Mario HONEYCUTT P.O. Box 1348, Darwin	1473	6/05/79

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name &amp; Address</u>	<u>Licence No.</u>	<u>Expiry Date</u>
H13	BOHNINGS TAXIS 19 Undoolya Road, Alice Springs	1429	20/06/79
H14	Colin SAUNDERS P.O. Box 2051, Alice Springs	1448	25/11/78
H15	Pyrros GIPALIS 5 Parer Drive, Moil	1389	16/08/79
H16	Rui DIAS 31 Bougainvillia Street, Nightcliff	1444	3/12/78
H18	BOHNINGS TAXIS 19 Undoolya Road, Alice Springs	1430	19/02/79
H20	Leonadis NAKOS 22 Martina Street, Wanguri	1408	22/12/78
H21	BOHNINGS TAXIS 19 Undoolya Road, Alice Springs	1482	11/10/78
H22	George DEFTEREOS 10 Calvert Street, Tiwi	1410	10/06/79
H23	Peter DUNG (Foon Chun) 29 Conigrove Street, Fannie Bay	1481	20/10/78
H26	Graeme & Mario ROBINSON 395 Victoria Highway, Katherine	1490	3/01/79
H27	Rodney MORRIS t Harvey Street, Alice Springs	1437	4/04/79
H28	Denis DE BRENNI 2 Gason Street, Alice Springs	1378	29/08/79
H30	Alan & Ina LOBLEY 32 Griffie Street, Nakara	1412	21/04/79
H31	William MALLIE 28 Francis Street, Milner	1464	10/10/79
H32	Jean KEETLEY 1 Duke Street, Stuart Park	1309	6/0/9/79
H33	Michael & Mona KATOOPE 5 Bramba Crescent, Darwin	1461	24/08/79
H34	Ronald & Judith GATLEY 6 Mauna Loa Street, Darwin	1393	9/11/78
H35	Mario CARRIERA 1565 Carrington Street, Nightcliff	1480	13/10/79
H36	George PARKINSON 59 Hudson Fysh Avenue, Darwin	1476	11/09/79
H38	Walter & Kathleen CURBY 4466 Cardo Crescent, Darwin	1365	19/07/79
H39	William Frank SIMM (Deceased) P.O. Box 2728, Darwin	1492	2/05/79
H55	Insaf ABU-ASSI 2/248 Trower Road, Casuarina	1469	2/11/78
H59	Ian BARKER 10 Francis Street, Alice Springs	1445	21/11/78

# ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name &amp; Address</u>	<u>Licence No.</u>	<u>Expiry Date</u>
H62	Heather SHEPHERD 21 Campbell Street, Alice Springs	1483	15/06/79
H81	Antonio CONTI 14 Rindberg Street, Casuarina	1486	13/11/79
H96	Patrick & Norma BRENNAN 23 Gosse Street, Alice Springs	1450	11/08/79
H100	Eugene & Hooi FLYNN 2189 Scriven Street, Alawa	1443	20/11/78
H105	Frederick & Joyce CHIN 8 Houston Street, Darwin	1415	7/05/78
H108	Jean KEETLEY 1 Duke Street, Darwin	1400	21/12/78
H111	Thomas DOYLE 9 Clematis Street, Nightcliff	1347	26/05/79
H117	Thomas CHIN 1 Goldsmith Street, Fannie Bay	1423	30/06/79
H144	Bruce LONGE 21 Campbell Street, Alice Springs	1428	23/03/79
H202	Leslie WHITTAKER 2/204 Phillip Street, Fannie Bay	1442	24/11/78
H204	Frank LAZZARONE 9 Eden Street, Stuart Park	1346	5/05/79
H213	Con CASTRISSIOS 37 Duke Street, Stuart Park	1475	30/08/79
H217	Keith & Lilliam HILL 4 Ashwin Street, Alice Springs	1427	7/09/79
H218	Richard DARE 29 Nicker Street, Alice Springs	1440	4/04/79
H219	BOHNINGS TAXIS 19 Undoolya Road, Alice Springs	1472	6/06/79
H220	Eric WESTBLADE 29 Giles Street, Alice Springs	1465	23/03/79
H221	Emmanuel HATZIGEORGIOU 8 Queen Street, Stuart Park	1424	26/06/79
H225	Jean KEETLEY 1 Duke Street, Stuart Park	1405	18/01/79
H226	Brian MEASEY 149 Stuart Highway, Darwin	1495	3/10/78
H229	Roy DUBOIS 12 Chewing Street, Alice Springs	1386	12/10/78
H230	Keith CLIFTON 16 Anthony Street, Casuarina	1387	2/11/79
H232	Michael & Fomice SPENCER 33 Head Street, Alice Springs	1467	25/03/79
H245	Jean KEETLEY 1 Duke Street, Stuart Park	1411	9/04/79

# ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name &amp; Address</u>	<u>Licence No.</u>	<u>Expiry Date</u>
H246	Mugdim HASANDEDIC 54 Ambrose Street, Tennant Creek	1488	22/06/79
H247	Emmanuel MIHAILOU Patterson Street, Tennant Creek	1401	23/12/78
H249	KATHERINE BUS & TAXI SERVICE Katherine Terrace, Katherine	1471	22/03/79
H251	Leonidas NAKOS 22 Martina Street, Wanguri	1487	18/11/78
H252	Marie PHILLIPS 10 Varney Street, Jingili	1489	9/08/79
H253	Jean-Paul HAVOUY Freds Pass Road, Humpty Doo	1484	21/07/79
H254	Stuart EDDY 86 Mitchell Street, Darwin	1410	26/05/79
H257	Peter WOOD 80 Lakeside Drive, Casuarina	1296	8/03/79
H262	Zacarias SACRAMENTO 38 Carinya Flats, Darwin	1426	9/05/79
H264	Theos LAVRANOS 296 Ambrose Street, Tennant Creek	1367	22/07/79
H266	KATHERINE BUS & TAXI SERVICE Katherine Terrace, Katherine	1470	30/06/79
H267	Chris CHRISTODOULOU 9 Margaret Street, Stuart Park	1362	2/06/79
H268	William BLACKBURN P.O. Box 889, Nhulunbuy	1478	19/05/79
H269	GOVE HIRE SERVICES & Noel SWAN P.O. Box 889, Nhulunbuy	1459	29/05/79
H270	Noel SWAN 9 Aisa Street, Nhulunbuy	1451	11/07/79
H271	Robert CLARKE 21 Lace Bark Avenue, Nhulunbuy	1380	5/09/78
H272	Michael KOUKOUVAS 4390 Trower Road, Darwin	1368	20/05/79
H275	Valerie DE GRAFF 140 Fourth Street, Katherine	1491	20/07/79
H276	Albert Robert VERBEKE 2 Phillip Street, Fannie Bay	1498	27/10/79

113 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

What payments have been made to the Northern Territory Port Authority by way of interest on its investments?

ANSWER

For the purposes of the Financial Administration and Audit Act the Northern Territory Port Authority is a prescribed statutory corporation and has

not been authorised to make any investments. All investments of cash which is surplus to immediate requirements are made by the Treasurer. The act further provides that any interest on investments will be paid to the credit of the Consolidated Fund.

The NT Port Authority operates its own bank account and arrangements have been made between Treasury and the Authority whereby funds are placed with the Treasury for investment.

Interest on investments made to date have not been paid to the Port Authority because, pending the passing of the Appropriation Bill (No. 1), there has been no appropriation of the Consolidated Fund for the payment of interest on investments to prescribed statutory corporations.

Following assent to the Appropriation Bill, action will be taken to remit any interest credits to date to the Port Authority.

115 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What were the findings of the court in relation to an incident in April of this year involving vehicles driven by Timothy John Stuart MacFarlane and Beetaloo John?
2. What prosecutions resulted from the incident; what time elapsed before each of the defendants was brought before the court and what penalty was imposed on each defendant?

ANSWER

Timothy John Stuart MacFarlane prosecuted on summons before Mr A. McGregor SM on 10/8/78. Defendant did not appear, but pleaded by endorsement on summons. Beetaloo John prosecuted on summons on 6/10/78. Pleded not guilty and matter adjourned to 19/10/78. On 19/10/78 Beetaloo John pleaded guilty before Ms S. Thomas SM.

Mr MacFarlane charged with driving whilst unlicensed. Mr Beetaloo John charged with exceed .08%, to wit, .19% and driving whilst unlicensed.

Incident occurred 20/5/78. Mr MacFarlane dealt with on 10/8/78. Mr Beetaloo John first appeared 6/10/78. Finally dealt with 19/10/78.

Mr MacFarlane fined \$60.

Mr Beetaloo John (a) Exceed .08%. Fined \$100 disqualified from driving for a period of 10 months; (b) Drive whilst unlicensed, fined \$20.

116 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

What were the circumstances which led to the prosecution of Timothy Hall and David Hanson for an incident which occurred at Mataranka on 9 November 1978?

ANSWER

Both persons had been drinking at the Old Elsey Roadside Inn and were under the influence of liquor. They were behaving in a disorderley manner and the Officer in Charge of the Mataranka Police Station spoke to both persons concerning their behaviour. They then left the hotel.

A short while later yelling was heard outside the bar. The police officer attended and observed both persons shouting at a group of Aborigines who had just pulled up outside the inn. Both persons started to push the Aborigines around and were shouting abuse. The police officer told them to refrain and they ignored his warning. They continued to abuse the Aborigines and were then arrested for the offence of disorderly behaviour.

117 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

What investigations were made by police into clashes between groups of youths in Katherine on Saturday 4 November 197, what facts were established and what action resulted?

ANSWER

At 11.05 pm on 4/11/78 a brawl occurred in Warburton Street outside the Crossways Hotel. When police attended, the brawl had ceased and the majority of persons involved decamped. Three Europeans were involved together with a number of Aborigines. Several persons received bruises and refused to lay a complaint concerning the incident or assist the police in identifying other persons involved.

Subsequent enquiries ascertained the background to the incident. One of the Europeans at the brawl had, earlier on, driven at several Aborigines and attempted to run over them. The Aborigines had retaliated and a brawl resulted.

Note: No complaint has been made directly to police on the driving incident.

Prosecution is now pending against the driver of the motor vehicle for dangerous driving and assault. Further enquiries are still being made into the brawl. It appears that no charges will result due to lack of evidence.

118 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I refer to the fire alarm system at the Clyde Fenton School, Katherine and ask, will it be connected directly to the fire station?

ANSWER

At this time, the answer to the above question is no.

At present the panel in the Fire Station in Katherine has only 6 positions and these were all taken up prior to the opening of Clyde Fenton School and hence there was no possibility of a direct link from school to fire station.

The Fire Department has applied for a new larger console for the Katherine Fire Station. When it is installed both Clyde Fenton and Katherine South Schools will be directly connected.

119 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER

When is it intended to commit the funds for the development of the industrial sub-division at Katherine?

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

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### ANSWER

It is currently intended to commit the funds for the development of the industrial sub-division at Katherine in June 1979.

120 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT AND WORKS

Is the occupancy rate of hostels in Katherine low enough to permit accommodation not required for permanent guests to be used by tourists?

### ANSWER

There are three hostels in Katherine.

One is the Aboriginal Hostel formerly operating as the Corroboree Motel. Facilities are not currently available because of alterations and expected occupancy rates could not be given at this stage. Use for tourist purposes could be limited.

A second hostel is that owned by Commonwealth Hostels Ltd and contracted out to a private organisation. Use by the tourist trade is limited as government requirements must take precedence but it is expected at least one to two rooms could be guaranteed as available at any particular time.

The third hostel is operated by the Baptist Church and this hostel consists of eleven twin rooms, of which only two are occupied on a permanent basis. The management believes that they could reasonably assess usage for the tourist trade to be between fifteen and eighteen beds, and advise that at present use is made of these facilities by the travelling public.

149 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will the NT government set up a radio transmitter to augment the ABC coverage of South-East Asia and to provide an emergency service when normal ABC services are inoperable?

### ANSWER

Broadcasts to South-East Asia are controlled by Radio Australia (the Overseas Services Section of the Australian Broadcasting Commission). The actual broadcasting is done by Telecom Australia from Shepparton and Lyndhurst in Victoria and Carnarvon in Western Australia. The Cox Peninsula installation is currently used as an emergency back-up since its only power source is a stand-by generator set. I am informed that Radio Australia consider that current systems are more than adequate for transmission, not only to South-East Asia, but to other areas, and do not require any augmentation. Further, broadcasting services within Australia are controlled by federal government. It is neither feasible nor practicable for the Northern Territory government to set up its own radio transmitter.

150 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is it a fact that in all Territory pastoral leases and agricultural leases provision is made for resumption of all or part of the lease for use by Aborigines?

### ANSWER

Yes. Section 103(1) of the Crown Lands Act states -



"Subject to this Act the Administrator may at any time, by proclamation -

(a) resume any Crown lands the subject of a lease except a lease under the Mining Act -

(i) for the use and benefit of the aboriginal inhabitants of the Territory;"

However, in a media release dated June 1, 1977, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr Ian Viner gave an assurance that alienated land such as pastoral and agricultural leases would only be acquired for Aborigines in the normal way; i.e. in the market place, through direct negotiations between the lease-holder and the government, in the same way that other properties such as Willowra, Kildurk, Wattie Creek and Utopia were acquired in recent years.

In addition to Mr Viner's assurance, it has never been the intention of the present NT government to acquire land for Aborigines other than through normal acceptable business practice.

151 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Why do public servants get more assistance to establish gardens in Darwin than in other centres?

ANSWER

Public Service tenants receive the same assistance as public sector tenants. Darwin tenants receive the same subsidy as Tennant Creek and the difference in the subsidy paid in these two centres and the subsidy paid to tenants in Katherine and Alice Springs is because it is considered that there is less need for top soil in the latter two centres. An investigation is presently being conducted by the Housing Commission to see whether any variation in the present policy is required.

152 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Is he aware of the concern of railway workers in Alice Springs that Public Service conditions, including air fares, apply to them and, if so, what does he propose to do about it?
2. Why do permanent NT public servants receive air fares to the cities they left voluntarily to take permanent positions in the NT Public Service?

ANSWER

1. I am not aware of the concern of railway workers in Alice Springs that Public Service conditions, including air fares, apply to them, and as such workers are not employees of the Northern Territory Public Service but are employed by and their conditions determined by the Australian National Railways Commission, I am unable to do anything about their conditions.
2. The provision is an entrenched right of transferred employees who currently comprise the majority of the NT Public Service. Discussions are currently being undertaken through the NT Public Service Consultative Council with unions with a view to determining the continued appropriateness of this and other remote locality conditions for recruits to the service.

153 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Did the NT government permit a change in the lease purpose for the Corroboree Motel in Katherine to facilitate its sale to Aboriginal Hostels Limited?
2. If so, and in view of the needs and importance of the tourist industry, why was Aboriginal Hostels Limited not offered land on which to erect its own specially designed accommodation?

ANSWER

1. NT government changed the lease purpose for the Corroboree Motel from "Motel Site" to "Hostel Site" as a result of a private application for rezoning. This application was made under the Town Planning Act (section 38A) in the normal manner by the then owner of the motel.
2. The question of alternative sites did not arise because Aboriginal Hostels Limited purchased (by agreement with the owner) the motel in the usual private manner. The NT government being aware that the removal of the motel as available tourist accommodation may result in a shortage of bed-space has ascertained that adequate suitably zoned land is available and believes that private developers in Katherine will soon overcome any shortfall.

154 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is he concerned at the anti-uranium mining statements expressed by the government-funded Environment Council (NT) Incorporated and, if so, will he make the NT government's views on uranium mining available to the Council?

ANSWER

I welcome any comments on uranium development from any source provided they are factual and presented in a reasonable manner.

As regards making available this government's views to the Northern Territory Environment Council, I believe that our views have been stated often enough both in Parliament and elsewhere to be well known to all interested members of the community. However, to recapitulate briefly, we believe that the maximum possible development of our uranium resources should take place subject only to adequate environmental safeguards and consultation with appropriate Aboriginal groups where deposits occur on Aboriginal land or in areas which are of particular concern to Aboriginals.

We have only recently introduced amendments to the Mining Act which, while recognising the responsibilities of the Commonwealth government in relation to uranium development, will permit an active part in the administration of this development to be taken by our own government, and which allow industry to proceed with such development under the most appropriate legislative provisions.

AMENDMENTS

SCHEDULE  
No. 29  
Mr Tuxworth

MINING BILL (No. 4) 1978  
(Serial 176)

NEW CLAUSE

- .1 After clause 2 insert the following new clause:

"2A. Section 7 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting in the definition of 'minerals', after 'includes', the words 'prescribed substances within the meaning of the Atomic Energy Act 1953 of the Commonwealth,'."

CLAUSE 3

- .2 Omit proposed new section 7A and substitute:

"7A.(1) Subject to sub-section (2), but notwithstanding anything elsewhere contained in this Act or the Regulations made thereunder, in respect of a prescribed substance within the meaning of the Atomic Energy Act 1953 of the Commonwealth, the Minister -

(a) shall exercise his powers in accordance with and give effect to the advice of the Minister of the Commonwealth for the time being administering section 41 of that Act; and

(b) shall not exercise his powers otherwise than in accordance with such advice.

"(2) Sub-section (1) does not operate to prevent the Minister from acting without advice, or to require the Minister to take or give effect to advice, in relation to a matter arising under Part IVA."

NEW CLAUSE

- .3 After clause 3 insert the following new clauses:

"3A. Section 43 of the Principal Act is amended -

(a) by inserting in sub-section (2), after 'Territory', the words ', in respect of gold and minerals other than prescribed substances,';

"3B. Section 44 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting after the words 'for gold and other minerals' the words ', other than prescribed substances within the meaning of the Atomic Energy Act 1953 of the Commonwealth,'.

"3C. Section 50 of the Principal Act is amended -

(a) by inserting in sub-section (2), after 'Territory', the words ', in respect of gold and minerals other than prescribed substances,';

(b) by inserting in sub-section (3), after 'substance', the words ', other than a prescribed substance,';

(c) by inserting in sub-sections (5)(a)(i), (7)(a), (8)(a) and (9)(a)(i), after 'substances' (first occurring), the words ', other than prescribed substances,';

(d) by omitting sub-sections (15) and (16) and substituting the following sub-sections:

'(15) The lessee of a mineral lease is liable to pay royalty to the Commonwealth, in the manner provided in this Act, on the value of any prescribed substance obtained from land comprised in the lease at such rate, on such amount and calculated in such manner as is specified in the lease and approved by the Commonwealth Minister for the time being administering section 41 of the Atomic Energy Act 1953 of the Commonwealth.

'(16) Subject to this Act, all matters relating to the lodging of royalty returns and to the assessment, payment and recovery of royalty, on the value of any prescribed substance obtained from land comprised in a mineral lease shall be specified in the lease.

'(16A) A person holding office under this Act may, in accordance with the terms and conditions of a mineral lease -

(a) receive an amount of money in respect of royalty;

(b) assess royalty; and

(c) exercise other powers and perform other functions in relation to the assessment and collection of royalty

on the value of prescribed substances obtained from land comprised in that lease.

'(16B) Where the Northern Territory receives an amount of money in respect of royalty on the value of any prescribed substance obtained from land comprised in a mineral lease, it shall, if the royalty has not already been assessed, hold that money until the royalty is assessed and pay the Commonwealth the amount of the royalty, when assessed.'; and

(e) by inserting in sub-section (17), after the definition of 'buyer', the following definition:

"'prescribed substance" means a prescribed substance within the meaning of the Atomic Energy Act 1953 of the Commonwealth;".

"3D. Section 50B of the Principal Act is amended by inserting after 'Territory' the words ', in respect of gold and minerals other than prescribed substances within the meaning of the Atomic Energy Act 1953 of the Commonwealth,'.

"3E. Section 54E of the Principal Act is amended by omitting 'A special mineral lease' and substituting 'Subject to section 54F, a special mineral lease'.

"3F. Section 54F of the Principal Act is amended -

(a) by omitting from sub-section (1) 'The rate' and substituting 'Subject to sub-section (1A), the rate';

(b) by inserting after sub-section (1) the following sub-section:

'(1A) In respect of a special mineral lease granted in respect of a prescribed substance, within the meaning of the Atomic Energy Act 1953 of the Commonwealth, the lessee is liable to pay royalty to the Commonwealth on the value of prescribed substances within the meaning of that Act obtained from land comprised in the lease at such rate, on such amount and calculated in such manner as is specified in the lease and approved by the Commonwealth Minister for the time being administering section 41 of that Act.'; and

(c) by adding at the end thereof the following sub-section:

'(5) In respect of royalties payable under, and royalty returns in respect of, a special imineral lease granted in respect of a prescribed substance, within the meaning of the Atomic Energy Act 1953 of the Commonwealth, the provisions of section 50 apply as if the special mineral lease were a mineral lease.'."

NEW CLAUSES

.4 After clause 4 add the following new clauses:

"5. Section 167 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting after the words 'the Territory' the words 'or, in the case of a substance that is a prescribed substabce within the meaning of the Atomic Energy Act 1953 of the Commonwealth, the Commonwealth'.

"6. Section 167A of the Principal Act is amended by inserting after the words 'the Territory' the words 'or, in the case of a substance that is a prescribed substance within the meaning of the Atomic Energy Act 1953 of the Commonwealth, the Commonwealth'."

199 Mr DOOLAN to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many public servants are employed in the Public Service Commissioner's Unit in the Northern Territory?
2. How many public servants are employed in the Public Service Commissioner's Unit's equivalent in each of the State Public Services?

ANSWER

I am pleased the honourable member raised this question as there are apparently some misconceptions about the size of the Public Service Commissioner's office.

As at 31 October 1978 the actual staff employed in the Public Service Commissioner's office was 74. It may be of interest to honourable members that the Commissioner has reduced his staff since the transfer of functions on 1 July 1978 from 85 and is constantly examining ways to reduce further.

Staff employed in Public Service boards/Commissioner's offices at the dates indicated was -

<u>State</u>	<u>Date</u>	
South Australia	June 1978	197
Western Australia	August 1978	131
Queensland	August 1978	202
Tasmania	August 1978	69

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

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New South Wales	June 1978	350
Victoria	June 1978	308
Commonwealth	June 1978	1,076

For crude comparison of these staffing levels, it is important to realise that the Public Service Commissioner's office is unique in Australia as it also provides for an Audit Bureau to provide for internal audit throughout the Service. If the Bureau is excluded for comparison purposes this would reduce the Commissioner's staff to 60 which as members will no doubt note is the smallest Public Service Board staff in Australia.

### 202 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Has any research been carried out in the Northern Territory to determine if there is sufficient fibre and protein content in pastures in the Northern Territory to enable a dairy industry to be established?

#### ANSWER

The Division of Primary Industry and the CSIRO have had active research programs into techniques of improving pasture quality for beef production in the Northern Territory for some 30 years. The results of these programs are applicable to dairy production.

Although pastures are now available that can give acceptable levels of beef production, it is considered that they would not support economic dairy production because of the higher nutritional requirements of dairy cow.

To minimise variability in seasonal production concentrate feeding and/or irrigation, both expensive inputs, would need to be practised.

In addition, heat stress is a major factor limiting fresh milk production in the monsoonal tropics.

### 203 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. How are tenders advertised for government contracts in the Nhulunbuy area?
2. Are the Town Bulletin Board and papers circulating in the Nhulunbuy area used for this purpose?
3. Whose responsibility is it to advertise government contracts in the Nhulunbuy area?

#### ANSWER

1. NT government tenders arranged through the General and Civil Works Tender Boards for the Nhulunbuy area generally are advertised in the 'Gove Gazette' and the 'NT News'. For minor works and repairs and maintenance selected quotes are obtained from all known available contractors in Nhulunbuy by the local office of the Department of Transport and Works. It will be noted that NT authorities and commissions, e.g. Northern Territory Electricity Commission, are responsible for their own advertising and letting of contracts.
2. Local advertising is considered adequate.

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

3. The Darwin office of the Department of Transport and Works is responsible for the advertising of contracts let through the General and Civil Works Tender Boards.

204 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Were tenders called for the cleaning of the Yirrkala School for 1978-79?
2. If so, what method of advertisement was used?
3. If not, why not?

### ANSWER

1. No.
2. N/A.
3. For cleaning contracts of schools in Aboriginal communities it is normal practice to canvass the Principal as to the availability of suppliers.

This procedure was adopted in the case of the Yirrkala School contract and the Principal advised that there was only one supplier available at Yirrkala. The Dhanbul Association (i.e. Yirrkala Council) indicated that they desired that the contract be let to a Yirrkala based body thus fostering local Aboriginal employment.

A formal offer was sought and following negotiations a contract was let by the Tender Board to the Yirrkala Contracting Co Pty Ltd.

205 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. When was the last occasion that the Yirrkala road to the Nhulunbuy airport was graded?
2. Was Yirrkala Business Enterprises awarded \$26,000 in July last year to maintain the road?
3. Was the work performed?
4. Is a similar program under way this year?

### ANSWER

1. The Yirrkala road was last graded in May 1978.
2. No. But the Yirrkala Construction Company Pty Ltd was given a Service Order in May 1978 for \$27,000 to maintain both the Yirrkala Road and the Dhumpuma Road.
3. To date \$7,000 has been expended.
4. Another grading has just been ordered.

253 Mr VALE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Who are the current members of the Places Names Committee?
2. Who were members in 1975, 1977 and 1978?

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

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3. How many times did the committee meet during 1975, 1976, 1977 and 1978?
4. At what meeting were the street names for the Head Street sub-division in Alice Springs decided, and what members of the Place Names Committee attended that meeting?

### ANSWER

1. Members of the Place Names Committee as at 30 November 1978:

Surveyor General (ex officio)	Mr P.J. Wells
Local member	Mr P.G. Spillett
Local member -	
Alice Springs Town Council	Alderman J.C. Marriott

2. (a) Members in 1975:

Chairman	Mr E.F. Dwyer
Member	Mr R.J. Kentish
Surveyor General (ex officio)	Mr P.J. Wells
Local members -	
Darwin City Council	Alderman K. McFarlane - until resignation from Council
Darwin City Council	Alderman T. Harris from 28/11/75
Alice Springs Town Council	Alderman P. Leunig
Tennant Creek Town Management Board	Mr A.E. Chittock
Katherine Town Management Board	Mr F. Lansdowne
Northern Territory	Mr P.G. Spillett

- (b) Members in 1976:

Chairman	Mr E.F. Dwyer
Member	Mr R.J. Kentish
Surveyor General (ex officio)	Mr P.J. Wells
Local members -	
Darwin City Council	Alderman T. Harris
Alice Springs Town Council	Alderman P. Leunig until resign- ation from Council
Alice Springs Town Council	Alderman J. Marriott from 6/8/76
Tennant Creek Town Management Board	Mr A.E. Chittock
Katherine Town Management Board	Mr F. Lansdowne
Northern Territory	Mr P.G. Spillett

- (c) Members in 1977:

Chairman	Mr E.F. Dwyer
Member	Mr R.J. Kentish
Surveyor General (ex officio)	Mr P.J. Wells
Local members -	
Darwin City Council	Alderman T. Harris
Alice Springs Town Council	Alderman J. Marriott
Tennant Creek Town Management Board	Mr A.E. Chittock
Katherine Town Management Board	Mr F. Lansdowne
Northern Territory	Mr P.G. Spillett

- (d) Members in 1978:

Chairman	Mr E.F. Dwyer until resigna- tion 26/6/78
Member	Mr R.J. Kentish
Surveyor General (ex officio)	Mr G.K. Lindsay to 30/6/78
Surveyor General (ex officio)	Mr P.J. Wells from 1/7/78



## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Local members -

Darwin City Corporation	Alderman T. Harris until resignation from Council
Alice Springs Town Council	Alderman J. Marriott
Tennant Creek Town Management Board	Mr A.E. Chittock to 30/6/78
Katherine Town Management Board	Mr F. Lansdowne to 30/6/78
Northern Territory	Mr P.G. Spillett

3. The Place Names Committee met once in 1975, 1977 and 1978 and did not meet during 1976.
4. The street names for the Head Street sub-division in Alice Springs were considered during two meetings. At the fourteenth meeting on 11/6/74 four names were recommended and the members present were the Chairman Mr E.F. Dwyer and Messrs R.J. Kentish, K. McFarlane and P.J. Wells. The balance of the names were recommended at the seventeenth meeting on 18/5/78 and the members present were the Deputy Chairman Mr G.K. Lindsay (Surveyor General) and Messrs P.G. Spillett and R.J. Kentish.

254 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

I refer to the Alice Springs Community College Advisory Committee and ask the following:

- (a) How many members are there currently on the committee and what are their names;
- (b) on what basis was each member of the committee appointed;
- (c) what major educational qualifications does each member have;
- (d) how often does the committee meet;
- (e) what are the main functions of the committee;
- (f) are applicants for vacancies on the committee interviewed;
- (g) do committee members receive sitting fees or any other fees in connection with their committee work;
- (h) what is the usual term of appointment of members?

### ANSWER

- (a) and (b) The following table gives membership and the basis for members' appointment according to the terms of reference.

DARWIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
A.S.C.C. Committee - Membership  
as at November, 1978

Name	Appointed		By	Remarks (3) Basis of Appointment
	From	To		
Mr E.H. Blackman	October 1977	October 1979	A.S.C.C. (1)	2 (f)
Dr. T. Cutter	7/1/1978	6/11/1978	A.S.C.C.	2 (d)
Nr H. Garner	July 1977	July 1979	Council	2 (a)
Mr N. Giese	--	--	Ex-Officio	2 (g)
Mr A. Mitchell	8/1/1978	July 1980	A.S.C.C.	2 (d)
Mr D. Odling-Smee	April 1977	April 1979	Council	2 (a)
Mr R.C. Oliver	July 1978	July 1980	A.S.C.C.	2 (d)
Mr H. Payne	April 1977	April 1979	A.S.C.C. (2)	2 (d)
Mr E.J. Pearse	--	--	Ex-Officio	2 (e)
Mr G. Sawtell	September 1978	September 1978	Staff	2 (b)
Mr G. Shellshear	4/7/1978	3/7/1978	Students	2 (c)
Mr L. Smooker	April 1977	April 1979	Council (4)	2 (a)
Dr J. Suiter	--	--	Ex-Officio	2 (e)
Mr G.E. Tambling	--	--	Ex-Officio	2 (g)
Mrs P. Vrazda	June 1977	June 1979	Staff	2 (b)
Mr H. Weber	April 1977	April 1979	Council	2 (a)

1. Chairman from 11/10/1977.
2. Deputy Chairman from 23/5/1978.
3. Terms of Reference - clause number.
4. Understood to be leaving Alice Springs soon but resignation not yet to hand.

J.H. BRADRIDGE  
(Executive Officer)  
6/12/1978

DARWIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE COUNCIL  
ALICE SPRINGS COMMUNITY COLLEGE COMMITTEE

19 July, 1977

TERMS OF REFERENCE  
(Issue 2A)

1. Name:

The name is the "Alice Springs Community College Committee".

2. Membership:

Membership will be as follows:

- a. Three members of the Alice Springs Community appointed by the D.C.C. Council, (see note 1) plus one Councillor from the Alice Springs region.
- b. Two elected Staff Members resident in Alice Springs;
- c. An elected Alice Springs Student Member;
- d. Four members of the Alice Springs Community elected by the Committee (see note 1);
- e. The Principal of the D.C.C. and the senior official of Alice Springs College;

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

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f. A Chairman;

g. The Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the D.C.C. Council are ex-officio members of the A.S.C.C. Committee.

### 3. Terms of Office:

Unless specifically precluded or otherwise determined, the Term of Office shall be for two years by rotation. The Council appointees may be re-appointed at the discretion of the Council. The elected members and officers of the Committee will be subject for re-election by the Committee at the end of two years.

### 4. Casual Vacancies:

a. Casual vacancies in membership shall occur when a member:

(i) Dies;

(ii) Presents a written notice of resignation to the Chairman of Committee or to Council if appointed;

(iii) Fails to attend three consecutive Committee meetings without obtaining leave of absence.

(iv) Ceases to be eligible in terms of his appointment.

b. Casual vacancies will be filled in the same manner as that of the person causing the vacancy. The new member will only complete the current term of office.

### 5. Responsibilities:

The Alice Springs Committee will make recommendations to the Council of the Darwin Community College on matters affecting the Alice Springs Community College. (See note 2).

### 6. Meetings:

a. The Committee shall meet at least twelve days before each D.C.C. Council meeting.

b. The Committee shall determine the time and place of its meetings.

### 7. Procedures:

a. A quorum shall be 50% of those holding membership at any time;

b. Only members of the Committee or those invited shall address the Committee;

c. A decision carried by a simple majority of votes cast by the members present shall be the decision of the Committee;

d. A Chairman will have a deliberative vote and at his discretion a casting vote.

### 8. Officers:

The Officers of the Committee shall be:

a. The Chairman who shall be elected by Committee members. (This officer can be elected from within the Committee or from the resident community of Alice Springs).

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

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- b. Two Deputy Chairmen (known as the 1st Deputy Chairman and the 2nd Deputy Chairman). The Deputy Chairmen shall be elected from the Committee.

They shall be elected each two years and can be re-elected.

- c. A part-time Secretary for the Committee who shall:

- (i) Be appointed by the Senior Officer of the Alice Springs Community College from the resident staff.
- (ii) Serve in this capacity during the currency of his residency in Alice Springs as a staff member of the College, unless replaced by the Senior Officer.
- (iii) Be responsible for the support required to service the Committee.

9. Sub-Committees:

- a. The Committee shall appoint such sub-committees to undertake specific tasks as deemed desirable.
- b. Sub-Committee shall be directly responsible to the Committee.

10. Alteration:

Subject to the concurrence of Council, the Committee may alter or amend its Terms of Reference at any regular meeting provided that written notice of the proposal has been received by the Committee at its previous regular meeting and has been communicated in writing to any absent members. The alteration or amendment may only be carried if 75% of the members of the Committee (9) are in attendance at the meeting.

NOTE 1:

Members in these two groups will be chosen from written applications received in answer to public notice in the newspaper(s).

NOTE 2:

The following is the current management structure of the Alice Springs Community College.

The Alice Springs Committee is a Committee of the Darwin Community College Council and is responsible directly to the Council on matters pertaining to the Alice Springs College. The Principal is a member of the Committee.

The Assistant Principal is the Senior Official of the Alice Springs Community College. He is a member of the Committee but for executive action and management of the College reports solely to the Principal. Information on A.S.C.C. development and administration will be provided to the Committee by the direction of the Principal.

The initiation of new programmes and policy, when discussed and recommended in Committee, should become a resolution of Council from Committee and at the same time the Assistant Principal would, as the advisor to the Principal, forward the proposals to the Principal. In other words, the Committee advises and recommends to the Council but executive action can only be initiated by direction of the Principal of the Darwin Community College.

NOTE 3:

No courses can be advertised, promised or formed in any way until it can be demonstrated that staff and material support is or will be available and that the courses have the approval of the A.S.C.C. Advisory Committee on D.C.C. Council.

- (c) This department does not have the education qualifications of each member and they were not available from the Secretary of the Darwin Community College. I would suggest that the honourable member obtain this information directly from the Chairman of the Alice Springs Community College Committee.
- (d) The committee meets at intervals of 6 weeks during the months of February to November.
- (e) The main functions of the committee are set out in the terms of reference as mentioned above.
- (f) Vacancies on the committee are advertised. The applications are discussed by the committee and a decision made on the basis of the application. Applicants are not interviewed.
- (g) No one in Alice Springs receives sitting fees for their work on the committee. However, the members from the Darwin Community College do receive fees to attend meetings in Alice Springs.
- (h) Usual term of appointment is two years.

255 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is it a fact that the Education Advisory Group did not consult with the Alice Springs Community College in the preparation of its report on educational administration? If not, why not?

ANSWER

The Education Advisory Group did not consult with the Alice Springs Community College.

All persons and interest groups in the Northern Territory were invited through advertisements placed in newspapers, including the Centralian Advocate, to make submissions to the Education Advisory Group. Discussions were subsequently held with those groups which specifically sought an opportunity to meet the group. No submission was received from the Alice Springs College nor was any request made to meet the group.

Alice Springs College is an annexe of the Darwin Community College and is responsible to the Council of the Darwin Community College. The Council made a submission to the Advisory Group and a discussion between the Council and the group was subsequently held.

257 Mr ISAACS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

1. What is the membership of the Northern Territory Law Review Committee?
2. What is its charter?
3. What is the honorarium paid to each member?

ANSWER

1.

Schedule

Membership of Northern Territory Law Review Committee

Chairman	The Hon. Mr Justice J.H. Muirhead
Deputy Chairman	The Hon. Mr Justice J.L. Toohey
Deputy Chairman	The Hon. Mr Justice J.F. Gallop
	Mr T.I. Pauling S.M.
	Mrs Withnall
	Mr M.D.A. Maurice
	Mr P.G. Howard
	Mr G. Clark
	Mr G. Dickinson
	Mr A.C. Thursfield (Secretary)

2.

CONSTITUTION OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

LAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

Name - The Committee shall be known as the "Northern Territory Law Review Committee".

Objects - The objects of the Committee shall be -

- (a) To make recommendations for the review or reform of any aspect of law or legal procedure in the Northern Territory that the Committee considers to be necessary or expedient.
- (b) To receive and consider proposals from any source for review of the law in the Northern Territory.
- (c) Upon the request and reference of the Attorney-General for the Northern Territory to advise upon matters relating to law reform.
- (d) To consult and co-operate with the Law Society of the Northern Territory, the Law Reform Commission, other bodies or committees (statutory or otherwise) and any person on matters relating to law reform in the Northern Territory.
- (e) To prepare and/or publish such written reports, working papers or minutes as the Committee may determine.
- (f) To consider and advise upon the establishment of a full time law reform body in or for the Northern Territory.

Ordinary  
Membership -

The Committee shall comprise -

- (a) A Chairman, who shall be a Judge of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory nominated from time to time by the Chief Judge of that Court.
- (b) Four persons to be selected by the Attorney-General for the Northern Territory who are legal practitioners in private practice and who are members of the Law Society of the Northern Territory.
- (c) A person nominated by the Attorney-General for the Northern Territory.
- (d) Two officers of the Department of Law nominated by the Solicitor-General for the Northern Territory, one of whom shall be a legislative draftsman.

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

(e) A Magistrate nominated by the Chief Magistrate.

(f) Such other members as the Committee may nominate from time to time, either as permanent members or as members invited to a meeting or meetings for the consideration of a specific matter only.

- Observers - The Committee may invite any person to attend its meetings as an observer or adviser. A person so attending may not vote.
- Ex officio membership - The Attorney-General for the Northern Territory shall be an ex officio member of the Committee and shall be entitled to attend all Committee meetings.
- Acting Chairman - The Chairman may appoint another Judge of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory to act as Chairman in his absence provided that if no such Judge is available to act as Chairman at a meeting then the members then present shall by simple majority vote on a show of hands elect one of their members to act as Chairman of that meeting.
- Secretary - The Committee shall appoint an Honorary Secretary who shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Committee and shall circulate copies of same to all ordinary and ex officio members and to such other persons as the Committee may determine.
- Quorum - The quorum for a meeting of the Committee shall be five members.
- Venue - Unless otherwise advised the Committee will meet at the Executive Conference Room, 1st Floor Block 2, Mitchell Street, Darwin.
- Voting - Each member shall have one vote on any matter requiring a decision, and in the case of equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a casting vote. Votes shall be by show of hands unless otherwise determined by the Committee.
- Procedure - The procedure at meetings shall be as determined by the Committee, but shall be as simple and free of formality as practicable.
- Ordinary Meetings - Unless otherwise determined by the Committee there shall be eleven ordinary meetings of the Committee each year, each meeting to be held at 9.00 a.m. on the first Friday of each calendar month (save for January) in each year. No ordinary meeting shall extend beyond 12.30 p.m., provided that if there is any unfinished business on the agenda at that time, the meeting may be adjourned to another date and time determined by the Committee.
- Special Meetings - A special meeting may be called by resolution of the Committee or may be called by the Chairman.
- Notice of Meetings - The Secretary shall give all members a reminder notice of all ordinary meetings at least 3 clear days before the appointed date and shall give all members at least 7 days notice of a special meeting.

- Resignations and Terminations - A member may resign his membership by written notice to the Secretary which shall take effect upon receipt by the Secretary of such notice.
- The Committee may terminate the membership of any ordinary member by fourteen days written notice to such member and to the person or body which nominated such member.
- Vacancies - Upon the occurrence of a vacancy in the ordinary membership of the Committee, the Secretary shall take steps to ensure a new member is nominated as soon as practicable thereafter to fill such vacancy. The proceedings of the Committee shall not be affected or invalidated by the existence of a vacancy or vacancies.
- Reports - All written reports, working papers or minutes of the Committee shall be published as the Committee may determine, but in any event shall be made available to the said Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General.
- Sub-Committees The Committee may from time to time establish sub-committees of such members and such other persons as the Committee nominates, to consider and report to the Committee on any matter.
- Alterations of Constitution - No alteration, addition, amendment or repeal of this Constitution shall be made unless the same is submitted to a meeting of the Committee called for that purpose and then only if the votes recorded in favour of the proposal shall be not less than those of two-thirds of all members present and voting.

3. An honorarium of \$1,000 per annum is paid to each private legal practitioner member of the Committee. Other members receive no honorarium.

258 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. What is the aggregate amount of loans made by the government to the operators of the Katherine meatworks?
2. What is the amount, interest rate and maturity date of each loan, and what other terms and conditions apply?

ANSWER

No loans have been made by the Northern Territory government to Northern Meat Exports Pty Ltd (Katherine Meatworks). However, loans totalling approximately \$1.4m have been extended by the Federal government and steps have been taken to gain transfer of the loan responsibility to the Northern Territory government. Negotiations are still underway.

Information on the terms and conditions of the loans would be a matter for the Federal government.

259 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Further to my question No. 89, what is the answer to the second part of the question, i.e. what efforts have been made to recruit Aborigines for the Defence Forces?



## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### ANSWER

I understand that the Australian Defence Force is making efforts to recruit Aboriginals and I would advise the honourable member to approach the Commonwealth Minister for Education to obtain details.

#### 261 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will Katherine South School be able to accommodate all intending pupils without overcrowding when it opens in 1979?

### ANSWER

The new Katherine South School which will open during 1979 is designed to provide student places for 360 students. According to the information available the projected enrolment for next year is 310. Consequently the new school should be well placed to cater for a growth of population in the Katherine area over the next few years.

However, until the new school opens, the existing demountable school (which will have a reduced capacity because of a commitment to the Katherine Rural Education Centre) is expected to be under pressure in coping with expected student demand. The development of the Rural Education Centre to the Katherine district is expected to provide long term benefits to the region and in the circumstances the short term difficulties experienced at the demountable school must be recognised in the content of the total building program in the municipality. This includes, apart from the start on the Rural Education Centre, major additions to the High School, the construction of a primary school and the development of new facilities for the School of the Air.

No educational harm should result due to the temporary pressure on accommodation at the demountable school.

#### 262 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What steps are being taken to assist the hostel operated by Mr and Mrs Rayner near Katherine for outback children wishing to attend Katherine High School?

### ANSWER

The Education Department has assisted in arranging a special financial scheme between the proprietors of the hostel and the parents of students who qualify for assistance under any of the isolated childrens' programs and who wish to use the facility. This action should assist the establishment and maintenance of the project.

The Education Department is not able to make any direct financial contribution of Mr and Mrs Rayner. It has assisted by paying Isolated Child Allowances direct to the Rayners a term in advance, with the approval of the parents concerned.

#### 263 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What steps are being taken to encourage school teachers to dress and behave as professional people?

ANSWER

The matter of teachers' dress and code of behaviour is seen by the Education Department as a personal professional matter. In the great majority of cases the teachers as a professional group have accepted the responsibility and as a consequence set extremely high personal standards.

In these rare cases where standards have fallen below the acceptable community norm the regional advisers have, through advice and example encouraged and assisted the teachers to raise their personal standards.

In extreme cases where teachers' behaviour is totally unacceptable to the local community appropriate action has been initiated by the department.

264 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will an inquiry be held on education in the Northern Territory? If not, do the minister's advisers believe that present arrangements - that is, in line with South Australia - are adequate for the Territory?

ANSWER

It is not intended in the immediate future to hold a general inquiry into education in the Northern Territory. It is envisaged that the Northern Territory Education Act will provide for an Education Advisory Council whose ongoing functions will be similar to those normally entrusted to short-term education inquiries.

The education system in the Northern Territory is linked to South Australia only for matriculation purposes. There are a number of advantages for the Northern Territory in maintaining that link in the immediate future.

The considerations include:

- (a) The SA PEB courses and examinations results are accredited to all Australian tertiary institutions. It would take approximately two years to develop similar NT courses and examinations and have them accredited. Community acceptance of such a certificate outside the NT may be difficult.
- (b) The cost of setting up and maintaining a fully fledged NT matriculation system would be high.
- (c) NT students are not disadvantaged. This year's matriculation results were fully comparable with those of South Australia.
- (d) A Committee of Inquiry is meeting in South Australia to revise the PEB's operations. From early reports, the changes likely to be recommended, e.g. a common certificate to include both matriculation and non-matriculation courses results and a better variety of courses seem to meet our current criticisms. The report will need to be closely studied to determine whether it meets our needs.

At present the Director, NT Division of the Department of Education, has established a taskforce on curriculum, accreditation and assessment to report to him on the matters listed below:

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

- (a) the structure of secondary school;
- (b) the content of the secondary school curriculum;
- (c) accreditation of courses;
- (d) methods of assessment of pupil achievement; and
- (e) ways of reporting to parents and employers.

It is envisaged that the report of this taskforce will be completed soon after 30 June 1979.

265 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will Mataranka School be open in 1979?

ANSWER

It is the intention of the Education Department to open the Mataranka School in 1979. There has been no indication from Ms K. Gunson that she does not intend to return as Teacher in Charge.

267 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

As at 1/1/1979, how many personal staff, and in which classifications, have been allocated to -

- (a) each Minister;
- (b) the Leader of the Opposition?

ANSWER

After consultation with the Public Service Commissioner, a basic allocation of six personal staff can be made available to each Minister and the Leader of the Opposition. In addition, each of these, whose electorate is outside Darwin, may receive approval for an additional staff member and the Chief Minister may also approve further additional staff in special circumstances.

At 1 January 1979, the following staff were employed:

1. CHIEF MINISTER/ATTORNEY GENERAL

- 1 Ministerial Officer Grade 3
- 3 Ministerial Officers Grade 1
- 2 Ministerial Secretaries
- 1 Administrative Class A3
- 1 Administrative Class A1
- 1 Consultant (part-time)

2. TREASURER/MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

- 1 Ministerial Officer Grade 3
- 1 Ministerial Office Grade 1
- 1 Ministerial Clerk (A6)
- 1 Ministerial Secretary
- 1 Stenographer

3. MINISTER for HEALTH/MINES and ENERGY

- 1 Ministerial Officer Grade 2
- 1 Ministerial Clerk
- 1 Ministerial Secretary
- 1 Administrative Class A1
- 1 Stenographer

4. MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/EDUCATION

- 2 Ministerial Officers Grade 2
- 1 Ministerial Secretary
- 1 Stenographer
- 1 Steno-Secretary

5. MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS/INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

- 1 Ministerial Officer Grade 3
- 1 Private Secretary
- 1 Ministerial Secretary

6. LEADER of the OPPOSITION

- 2 Ministerial Officers Grade 1
- 1 Ministerial Secretary

269 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Have reports on the agricultural and horticultural experiments carried out by the former Agriculture Branch and its successors since the last war been collated and are they available to interested persons in the primary production field?

ANSWER

Generally all completed reports on agricultural, horticultural and animal production experiments carried out by the Division of Primary Industry and its predecessors are available, although not necessarily in collated form. Copies may be obtained through division staff at the Alice Springs or Katherine offices or direct from the division's library at Block 1, Mitchell Street, Darwin.

270 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. On what day did the Feral Animal Inquiry commence?
2. What is the daily rate paid to each member of the Feral Animal Inquiry?
3. In which places and for how many days in each place has the Inquiry taken evidence?
4. How much has been paid to the Chairman and each member of the Inquiry by way of -
  - (a) daily fees;
  - (b) travelling allowance; and
  - (c) incidental expenses?

ANSWER

1. The inquiry was established on the members' vote on the motion of Mr R. Steele, MLA on 16 June 1978 and formal hearings of evidence and

inspections commenced shortly thereafter.

2. The daily rate paid to each member of the Feral Animals Inquiry is:

Fees	- chairman:	\$70.00 per day;
	- members:	\$60.00 per day each.

Travelling allowance - all members: \$50.00 per day.

3. The board took evidence in Darwin for nine days (16 August 1978, 4 to 8 September 1978 and 19 to 21 September 1978); in Sydney for two days (26 and 27 October 1978); in Katherine for two days (20 and 21 September 1978); in Alice Springs for three days (14 August to 16 August 1978).

Inspections and informal discussions were held at Woolwonga Reserve, Mudginberri, Coburg Peninsula, Point Stuart Station, Wildman Station, Marrakai Station, Timber Creek and in the Alice Springs District at Corkwood Bore and Bond Springs. At Daly River and Western VRD inspections and discussions took place at Peppimenarti, Palumpa, Wave Hill and Mistake Creek. In addition, aerial inspections were made of areas west of Stuart Highway in the Top End and east of the Stuart Highway as far as Mudginberri Station.

4. The amounts paid to members of the Inquiry to 31/1/1979 are:

(a) Fees	\$11,770
(b) Travelling allowances and fares	\$12,245
(c) Incidentals	\$13

271 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Does the government intend to outlaw the driving of lazy axle trucks on Territory roads?
2. Does the government intend to outlaw the driving of single drive body trucks towing a bogey trailer with a single axle dolly?

ANSWER

The government does not intend to outlaw either lazy axle trucks or single drive body trucks towing a bogey trailer with a single axle dolly from driving on Territory roads.

272 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Why was tender TB 2025/78 computer facilities cancelled?
2. Is it anticipated that a new computer will be purchased this financial year?

ANSWER

1. The tender specification TB 2025/78 was withdrawn following an inter-departmental review of the existing and future requirements of the administrative arrangements of the Northern Territory government.

This review established that the original specification did not properly reflect the new administrative requirements of the government.

2. It is expected that a revised specification will be issued shortly and that, following detailed evaluation of tenders, an order will be placed this financial year. Installation date for the new equipment will depend upon the terms and conditions of the accepted tender.

273 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Was an assessment made of the financial impact of a casino on the business communities in Darwin and Alice Springs? If so, will the Minister make public the terms of the assessment?
2. What is the cost of replacing the Mindil Beach Caravan Park on another site?
3. Who is paying for the replacement of the Caravan Park?
4. Does the cost include all internal and external electrical, water, sewer, roads, kiosk, ablution blocks, caretaker accommodation, beautification, etc, services for the replacement park?
5. Will the proposed caravan park comply with the standards of the Caravan Parks Act?
6. What guarantees do the citizens of Darwin have that they will not contribute to the replacement of the park?
7. What additional income does the government expect to get from the proposed casino if it is sited at Mindil Beach rather than other sites, e.g. the Esplanade or the victualling yards?
8. Was each of the tenderers advised of the availability of the Mindil Beach site, if not, at what stage were tenderers advised of the availability of the site?
9. Is the Darwin City Council expected to gain income from the move? If so, how much per year?
10. What rental will Federal Pacific Hotels be charged for the Mindil Beach site?
11. What extra expenditure will be required by government for licensing, police, hospital services, social services, taxation, as a result of the establishment of casinos at Darwin and Alice Springs?
12. What information is available to assess the social impact of a casino in:
  - (a) Darwin; and
  - (b) Alice Springs?
13. What written guarantees have been established that local employees and contractors will be used in the construction and operation of casinos?
14. Will the Mindil Beach Caravan Park's replacement be constructed so that the Darwin City Council will not lose revenue. If not, what compensation will be paid to the council for this loss of revenue?
15. What compensation is being paid to the Darwin City Council for the acquisition of their land?

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

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### ANSWER

1. Each applicant represented the likely effect on the business community to the Assessment Panel. The upsurge in tourism and business generally following the opening of the Wrest Point Hotel-Casino in Hobart was also taken into account. The outlook for Territory tourism and related industries through the establishment of the Darwin and Alice Springs complexes is exceedingly bright.
2. Depends on the standards adopted. The existing park is substantially below standard. Replacement to a high standard is estimated at \$1.7m by our own engineers and \$2.5m by those retained by the Council.
3. The Darwin City Council would if they chose to establish another park
4. Yes.
5. It is understood the Council has no wish to re-enter the caravan park business in the immediate future. However, if they do construct another park it would comply with legislation in force at the time.
6. See answer to question 5. However, if Council resolves to establish another park at some future date finance required in excess of available funds and usual subsidies would be raised by the Council by loan with loan servicing from revenue of the park.
7. The question is academic. Each site has its own costs to the developer including establishment or upgrading of services, acquisition, engineering and ability to occupy a site at an early date. Taxation levels therefore must relate to the projected viability of the project. It is unlikely that the chosen developer would have proceeded in Darwin with the same complex and same taxation levels on a site other than Mindil.
8. Other applicants on the final short list had their own preferred sites. Each was informed that they could vary their proposal to specify other sites which would be considered on the merits of the proposal.
9. The Council will gain about \$8,000 p.a. by way of rates from the project. Additionally, the Council will have at its disposal an agreed compensation sum of \$700,000 and interest on that sum should it be invested will substantially exceed profit from the existing park. Council's published estimates for 1978-79 showed the Corporation estimated income of \$10,000 from the existing park. If it was to go ahead with a replacement caravan park, the expected income would only be able to be calculated by the Council in the light of a range of policy decisions they must take.
10. The lease will cost Federal Hotels \$700,000 and in common with all DTAL's no rent will be demanded.
11. Licensing control over both centres is expected to cost in the vicinity of \$200,000 p.a. Any extra governmental activity is expected to be within the capacity of services already provided.
12. As there is no Territory precedent the only information is that available from other places where casinos operate. The Tasmanian model in terms of law, method of operation and standards was closely studied. There have been no discernable adverse social effects from that hotel-casino. The social impact has been that of a job creator and stimulus to Tasmanian tourism as well as retail trade and similar effects to the Territory are indicated.

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

13. Construction contracts will be awarded by tender and the company has adopted the view that Territory companies will be selected provided they are competitive. Federal Hotels has a good record of using local contractors and employees and will continue this corporate policy in the Territory. Staff within the hotel-casino will be drawn from the Territory with the possible initial exception of certain key managerial ranks. If satisfactory recruits are not available for all positions locally then no doubt the company would have to opt for interstate recruitment.
14. See answers Nos 5 and 9. Replacement of the caravan park is a matter for Council decision. Compensation includes provision for settlement of contractual commitments.
15. The compensation for improvements and commitments will be \$700,000, the guarantee of an alternative caravan park site if required, and certain salvage rights on the old site.

274 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What assistance by way of the provisions of charts, dredging and loading facilities will the Northern Territory government extend to individuals or companies interested in opening up a live cattle export enterprise in the MacArthur River area?

### ANSWER

As the honourable member is aware this government is committed to assisting in the development of existing and new economically viable industries in the Territory. In the event that we were approached by an individual or company to assist in opening up a viable live cattle export enterprise in the McArthur River area, that request would receive our serious consideration.

276 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Is it a fact that imported fertilizers cost close to \$200 per tonne in the Territory?
2. Does the cost of imported fertilizers make agriculture uneconomic in the higher rainfall of the Territory?
3. What fertilizers are available for import from South-East Asia?
4. What assistance or encouragement is given to the production of fertilizers in the Northern Territory?

### ANSWER

1. Yes, superphosphate costs between \$160-200 per tonne while other fertilizers cost considerably more.
2. No, however, high fertilizer costs are a large component of operational costs and any substantial reduction in their cost would improve industry economics.
3. I understand that a full range of fertilizers is available in South-East Asia.



## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

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4. The Department of Mines and Energy and the Division of Primary Industry are investigating the possible utilisation of rock phosphate deposits at Rum Jungle for local manufacture of biosuper. On a trial basis, 15 tonnes of biosuper has been manufactured and with the co-operation of 8 property owners this has been spread over 13 selected sites. As these trials commenced this wet season it is too early for any assessment to be made. The deposits so far located are of low grade and therefore have limited usefulness but further test drilling of promising areas will be undertaken in an attempt to locate higher grade deposits.

277 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Who advises the Minister on tropical agriculture trends?

ANSWER

On matters related to tropical agriculture, I am advised by professional staff through the Secretary of my Department of Industrial Development and also by representatives of industries concerned.

280 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Has the Primary Industry Division and the former Animal Industry Branch conducted trials and experiments with Banteng cattle and, if so, over what period?
2. Are the results of any such trials and experiments available to the public? If not, will the Minister make them available?
3. Why cannot Northern Territory pastoralists obtain the Banteng cattle strain?

ANSWER

1. Yes. Research commenced at Beatrice Hill in 1963 and is still continuing. Current trials include comparative production to Brahman cross cattle and crossbreeding performance.
2. Research results have been made available to the public.
3. Bali cattle have a very low capacity to increase herd numbers due to a very high mortality rate in young stock which can be as high as 80% in stock up to 16 months of age. The current domestic herd at Beatrice Hill is very small. Uncontrolled use of Bali cattle on pastoral properties would inevitably lead to major genetic and management problems. Future co-operative use of Bali cattle is possible but it must form an integral part of a fully controlled and constructive development program.

281 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Will the Northern Territory government promote the sale of top quality Central and Tablelands beef in the top end of the Territory by amending the method of licensing abattoirs and meatworks to ensure that the local market is provided for?

ANSWER

The honourable member's question infers the present method of licensing abattoirs and meatworks inhibits the sale of top quality Centralian and Tablelands beef in the Top End of the Territory. I am unable to identify

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

any aspects of the licensing provisions of the Abattoirs and Slaughtering Act that inhibit such sales.

However, if the honourable member cares to put forward a specific proposal which could promote increased sales in the Top End, I will undertake to have the matter investigated.

282 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Will the Northern Territory government conduct research into methods of killing, handling, processing and storing of beef in the Territory to make it more attractive to local consumers?

ANSWER

The processing and storage of beef is a very specialised field and major long-term research is being conducted by CSIRO and Australian Meat and Live-stock Corporation into these aspects. As any appropriate commercially applicable results could be adopted for use in the Territory, I consider it would be wasteful of resources for this government to attempt at this late stage to duplicate that research.

284 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is any assistance or encouragement being given to the production of cement in the Territory?

ANSWER

There is no specific assistance or encouragement offered for the production of cement in the Territory.

Financial assistance could be provided by the Northern Territory Development Corporation to the proposers of such a venture and other incentives could be offered, depending on the circumstances.

All possible assistance would be given by the government and in particular by the Department of Industrial Development and the Northern Territory Development Corporation in negotiating such a proposal and evaluating its feasibility.

285 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What is being done to promote dairying in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The government has no active program aimed specifically at promoting dairying in the Northern Territory although technical assistance and advice to existing or intending producers is readily available through the Division of Primary Industry of my department. Because of the much higher nutritional requirements of dairy cows concentrate feeding and/or irrigation, both of which require high capital input, need to be practised. Heat stress, particularly in the Top End has provided a major factor in limiting milk yields. These factors coupled with limited market outlets and the competition from imported fresh milk make doubtful the prospects of economic viability of any large scale dairying development.

286 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What is being done to make the Northern Territory self-sufficient in vegetable production?

ANSWER

Self-sufficiency of the Northern Territory in traditional vegetables on a year round basis is considered at present to be an unattainable goal because of economic, climatic and other constraints. This government is seeking to reduce to a minimum the Territory's dependence on imports and to foster the maximum development of those vegetables which have economic or biological advantages. To this end we provide land, finance and advisory and research services for horticulture.

287 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. How much has been paid to the Chairman of the Feral Animal Inquiry for daily fees in connexion with the inquiry?
2. How much has been paid to the Chairman of the Feral Animal Inquiry for travelling allowance in connexion with the inquiry?
3. How much has been paid to the Chairman of the Feral Animal Inquiry for incidentals in connexion with the inquiry?

ANSWER

1. An amount of \$9,450 has been paid to the Chairman of the Feral Animal Inquiry as daily fees in connexion with the inquiry.
2. An amount of \$5,826 has been paid to the Chairman of the Feral Animal Inquiry for travelling allowance in connexion with the inquiry.
3. No expenditure has been incurred by the Chairman of the Feral Animal Inquiry for incidentals in connexion with the inquiry.

289 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

Is he aware of the criticism by the Confederation of Commerce and Industry of the government's proposal to establish a Government Insurance Office? Given the close association between his party and that organisation, will he confirm to the House that the GIO proposal will proceed?

ANSWER

Mr EVERINGHAM: Questions in relation to the proposed legislation that will be introduced into this House to establish a Government Insurance Office should be directed to me as I am responsible for areas such as workmen's compensation. It has been decided between the Treasurer and myself that, since the bills will be cognate, I will have the carriage of them.

Various organisations have made their views known to the government since its proposal to establish a Government Insurance Office was announced. Among these has been the Chamber of Industries and also the Trades and Labour Council. The Trades and Labour Council has taken a very responsible attitude to the government's position. If the government were to permit the current common law situation in respect of third-party insurance to continue in operation in the Northern Territory without any change whatsoever, then, according to our advice, a motorist in the Territory who owns a normal family sedan car would be looking forward this year to paying a premium for third-party insurance in the order of \$200 and looking forward next year to paying a premium in the order of \$250.

The government therefore decided that action had to be taken. We sought advice from an actuary. His advice was that the government should establish an insurance office of its own to run the compulsory third-party insurance scheme, the no-fault scheme, that was recommended. The government has accepted the actuary's recommendation that a Government Insurance Office be established in the Northern Territory. Indeed, I do not see even the Insurance Council of Australia challenging the establishment of a Government Insurance Office. At the present time, the Insurance Council of Australia, which has a lot of money in its purse, is mounting an intensive media campaign relative to the matter of competition between insurance companies. It seems to me that, even the Insurance Council therefore acknowledges that a Government Insurance Office is virtually an accomplished fact in this Territory, as it is in every state of Australia.

One of the major considerations taken into account by the government in its decision to establish an insurance office was the fact that considerable numbers of government assets will have to be insured during the course of the next financial year. Indeed, in this financial year, the assets of the Electricity Commission had to be insured and we found that we were paying a premium of many hundreds of thousands of dollars which, of course, went out of the Territory. It may be that some of this premium will come back in the form of meeting claims but it is the government's view that it is better for the Territory government to retain as much as possible of the premiums - naturally, there will be reinsurance payments to be made - for insurance on government assets within the Territory so that it can be reinvested in government authorities such as the Home Finance Trustee and so that it can be put into the capital market in the Northern Territory. This was one of the prime considerations in the mind of the government at the time that it took the decision to establish an insurance office.

Mr Speaker, it is not without significance I think that only the other day the South Australian Minister for Local Government, Mr Geoff Virgo, who is known as a fairly shrewd politician in most circles, announced that that

government was planning a major review of the state's third-party insurance scheme. Just to quote some parts of Mr Virgo's press release which I have here, if honourable members are interested: "Transport Minister, Mr Geoff Virgo, announced the major review of South Australia's third-party insurance scheme today. The move follows a report from a special committee set up by the former premier, Mr Dunstan, to examine the existing scheme and discuss possible alternatives. The committee found that the existing scheme is deficient in a number of areas. At present damages can be recovered only when it is proved that injury or death resulted from the fault of another person. The committee considered this unfair and said that this requirement inevitably involves court action, substantial legal costs and protracted delays in the payment of compensation. As a result, the premiums are high. Because of these factors the government plans to introduce a no-fault scheme. This would provide compensation for injury suffered in an accident regardless of fault and abolish present common law rights". I wonder if what is sauce for the goose is not sauce for the gander. "The government also proposes to change the method of setting third-party premiums" and so it goes. In fact it is not much different from a press release that I issued myself a couple of weeks ago.

Having announced the establishment of a GIO and proposals for a no-fault compensation scheme and focussing the public's mind on what has been a social cancer building up incipiently for many years in the Northern Territory, and in view of public expressions that certain elements of the public believe - and the trade union movement expressed its belief in this that benefits payable under the proposals made by the Northern Territory government were too low, the government established a committee to inquire into the third-party injuries compensation scheme. That committee has broad terms of reference and, for the interest of members of the House, I would seek leave to table a copy of the terms of reference of the committee.

Leave granted.

Mr EVERINGHAM: I might say that a comparison of the benefits payable under the Northern Territory scheme with those payable under similar schemes operating in Victoria and Tasmania does not reflect well on Victoria and Tasmania. Nevertheless, I will not go into those details at this time. If any member wishes details of the comparisons of the benefits payable under the Northern Territory proposals and those payable under similar schemes that are operating in Victoria and Tasmania, I will be happy to answer questions that they might wish to put to me.

290 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

Is it true that financial institutions come within his area of responsibility, as set out in Northern Territory Government Gazette No. S2 of 2 January 1979? If that is so, isn't the GIO a financial institution under his responsibility? And is it further true that the reason the Chief Minister is taking responsibility for the GIO is simply because, as is popularly touted, the Treasurer is opposed to the establishment of the GIO?

ANSWER

It is quite easy to allay the fears of the Leader of the Opposition that I have somehow shirked my responsibilities in this matter because of some personal belief that I oppose its establishment. As the Chief Minister outlined a moment ago, we agreed between ourselves that it would be more equitable under the present circumstances for him to carry passage of this proposed legislation through the House at the present time. However, the administration of the legislation once it is established will be within

my portfolio. I can assure the Leader of the Opposition and this House that I am in full agreement with the government's proposal.

291 Mr OLIVER to CHIEF MINISTER

Can the Chief Minister provide details of the long-range police patrols recently announced by the Police Commissioner?

ANSWER

This is an interesting question from the honourable member for Alice Springs. The government is acting through the Department of Transport and Works, the responsibility of my honourable colleague along the front bench, and through the Police Department to improve road safety standards in the Northern Territory. As most honourable members of this House would be aware, a considerable number of the fatalities in the Northern Territory occur outside urban areas. In fact, I think the ratio is something like two thirds of fatalities occur in country areas and one third of fatalities occur in city areas. Many of those fatalities in country areas are passengers travelling in the backs of vehicles and, therefore, with this and other matters in mind, the Police Commissioner submitted to me that a long-range patrol force should be established to operate in Central Australia and in due course in the Top End. A similar force, I understand from the Police Commissioner, operates in South Australia.

For the time being, an International Scout vehicle has been acquired to be tested by the police force in Central Australia and in the near future I understand that vehicles such as a Willys and I think a Range Rover will be purchased for testing in the Top End. These vehicles are specially equipped: they have tools and saws and acetylene torches for cutting people out of vehicles when the police might come across an accident and, of course, they have first aid facilities and the police operating the vehicles are trained in the provision of first aid. I believe these patrols will render a great service to the people in the less populous areas of the Territory and will reassure them that the police are always around, that they are not tied to a particular station, and will generally improve the morale of the community at the same time as they improve road safety standards.

292 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware that when people register a firearm in the Northern Territory, they are handed a little book called "Shooting in the Northern Territory" which was prepared by the Department of the Interior, in association with the Northern Territory Administration? It was last published in 1972 and is consequently wildly out of date; it gives little information to people who, through ignorance of the law, might go out and shoot prohibited species. If he is aware of this, will he ensure that an up-to-date reprint is made as soon as possible?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am very popular this morning at question time and this is a very pleasant change for me because usually I seem to rank very low in the question stakes. I was not aware that this booklet was distributed to persons applying to license a firearm in the Northern Territory but I would have thought that the position has not greatly changed since the time that that book was published. I might suggest to the House that it could be a waste of money to reprint this booklet because the Police Commissioner and the legislation section of my department are presently working on a totally new firearms act. We have already been in consultation with most of the organised bodies which handle firearms in the Northern Territory - the gun

clubs, the clay target shooting people, pistol clubs and the like - and have sought submissions from them. I believe we may have received submissions from them by this time. I understand it is likely that drafting instructions for the legislation will go forward during the first half of this year and hopefully it may be able to be introduced into this House for consideration by honourable members and by the public towards the end of the year.

293 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can the minister bring the House up to date on the problems apparently experienced with Darwin's central fire system?

ANSWER

There was a newspaper article published in Darwin a few days ago and it certainly did not let any facts get in the way of what the journalists might have thought was a good story. The fact is that while there are problems with the central system, they will soon be rectified and a tender was let in this regard on 21 February. However, I think it should be stressed that not one resident of Darwin or any piece of property is necessarily in any greater danger at this time than it will be after the new system goes in. What it does provide is an additional early warning capacity.

Concerning major buildings, those that will be connected to the central alarm system, 2 situations now apply. Firstly, every major building has an automatic alarm system. Secondly, 19 major buildings already have, in addition to automatic alarms, direct fire alarm connections to the Fire Brigade headquarters. These connections use temporary systems which are not unlike the one we have arranged to buy. In the first category - that is, buildings not on one or other of the central systems - there is a temporary need for the Fire Brigade to be informed of an emergency. However, all these buildings have one or more of a combination on fire protection systems designed to be triggered even in the absence of the Fire Brigade. These types of protection include thermal and early warning detection systems which operate local alarm bells and there are also gas flooding and sprinkler systems.

I should add that a central fire alarm system was installed during the time of the federal administration but proved unsatisfactory during wet seasons. Lightning strikes seem to be the main problem. However, the tender let recently is for the installation of a unit which its maker says has a capacity to withstand these assaults. The basic monitoring devices in the new system are expected to be operating by mid-June while the full central alarm board should be installed by 22 August when the contract is due for completion.

294 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Will the minister explain why the Juvenile Detention Centre at Malak which was completed in July 1978 is still not occupied and will he assure the Assembly that this facility will be put into use as a matter of urgency, as it is very much needed?

ANSWER

It is quite true that there has been a delay in the opening of the centre at Malak. The principal problem was one of electrical wiring - the contractor apparently read the wrong code book or something - and when the

inspection was duly done, it was unsatisfactory. I can inform the House that the handover-takeover of the detention centre at Malak was conducted yesterday and it should be occupied within 2 to 3 weeks.

295 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Why is the Katherine Rural College offering courses in beginners embroidery and photography, when we have not heard of it offering courses in such things as bore pulling, cattle management, harness maintenance and fencing?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this would be a question very dear to your heart, Sir. The truth of the matter is this: the Katherine Rural Education Centre is a joint project between the Department of Education and the Darwin Community College. This was a matter of economics. The fact is that the Department of Education, because it had already committed its forward planning for the year, did not have the funds to get this off the ground in this financial year. As you know, Mr Speaker, both you and I have been applying a great deal of pressure on the department to get the thing rolling. The only way it could be done was to involve the Darwin Community College as a joint partner in the venture. The person in Katherine who represents the Darwin Community College - that is the regional officer, a very hard working and dedicated person - is also the representative of the community college for the Katherine Rural Education Centre. This advertisement relates to courses being offered by the Darwin Community College and not by the Katherine Rural Education Centre. It was unfortunate that she chose to use the address of the new Rural Education Centre for applications for courses with the Darwin Community College. I can assure members that macrame and bead-making and jewelry will not be the type of courses offered by the Katherine Rural Education Centre.

Mrs Lawrie: Why not?

Mr ROBERTSON: Well, because they are provided by the Darwin Community College in its own right and this, after all, is a practical education institution. If our female members of this House want to go making beads, then I would suggest they use some other venue than a rural education centre. Certainly, it would not be our intention to see it used for that purpose.

296 Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

Has an appointment been made yet for an interim general manager of the proposed Government Insurance Office? If so, will he inform the House who that person is to be?

ANSWER

An appointment of an interim general manager for the Government Insurance Office has in fact been made and I expect that the gentleman concerned will take up his appointment within a month or so. At this stage, I am not in a position to inform the House because I am not quite certain whether that person has given final notice to his current employers. I could ascertain this and inform the House perhaps tomorrow or the next day. In any event, I am quite prepared to inform any honourable member of the name of the person concerned on a confidential basis.

297 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Could he advise the House of the initiative the government is proposing to take in the road safety areas to bring down the mounting Northern Territory road toll?



ANSWER

These initiatives will be outlined in the continuation of a statement which I made last November. This will be made either this week or next week.

298 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has consideration been given by the government and a decision been reached about the future use of the Fannie Bay gaol site after the gaol is transferred to Berrimah?

ANSWER

No firm decision on the future of the gaol site has been taken by the government. The government would certainly welcome proposals and views from any members or organisations in the community on this matter.

299 Mr BALLANTYNE to TREASURER

When will the first batch of commission homes be occupied at Nhulunbuy? Has an estimated completion date been set for the project?

ANSWER

This year, for the first time, the Housing Commission has constructed houses at Nhulunbuy. I am advised that the first batch of 10 houses will be ready for occupation by the end of March. The remaining 15 houses in this first contract will become progressively available for occupation after March. A further 10 houses are included in this year's program; these have been added to the original scheme and the tenders are yet to be called. It is intended by the Housing Commission that the whole group of 35 houses will be occupied by February 1980.

300 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I preface this by saying that the emergency number listed in the book for "water supply (after hours)" is in fact the number of Wormald Security Service. I ask the honourable member why this is so. Is he aware that people who have had domestic water supplies disconnected because of an administrative wrangle are unable to get relief until the following business day? This causes some distress.

ANSWER

I was not aware of the telephone number problem or the other problem the honourable member outlined. I will certainly have a quick look at the matter for her.

301 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What stage has town planning reached on Darwin east and when will an announcement be made about the land in the area.

ANSWER

The preliminary studies in planning Darwin east, an area well known as the 32-square-mile acquisition area, have reached the stage where a portion of the land can be identified as not being required for closer settlement as was originally intended by the Commonwealth in the days when acquisition action was taken. We are now in a position to assess whether some of the persons in the 32-square-mile acquisition area who had their land acquired,

unnecessarily in the light of hindsight, may now have the land re-leased back to them. There are a number of complicating factor in regard to this. There are still a number of outstanding settlements to be completed in the original acquisition and that does complicate somewhat the making of new arrangements for people in the area to lease the land back. However, the department is working on a detailed submission on this matter for Cabinet and I expect it to be in my hands within a few days. As soon as Cabinet makes a decision on the various factors bearing on who will be offered leased-back land without public competition. I will make a public announcement forthwith.

302 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

Will the regulations to the Stamp Duty Act be amended to exempt from stamp duty cheques of school associations and other quasi-trading bodies within schools?

ANSWER

This matter was the subject of either a question on notice or a letter from the Opposition Leader over the past 6 weeks. I would seek to refresh my memory on the matter. He was given a reply if I recall correctly. I will advise him further during this sittings.

303 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is the minister aware that the Territory Development Corporation is to lend \$500,000 to the Meneling meatworks?

ANSWER

I understand that an application has been forwarded to the Territory Development Corporation by the owners of Meneling for a loan of some \$500,000. After processing, it will come before us in due course.

304 Mr BALLANTYNE to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he confirm that the Minister for Posts and Telecommunications is visiting the Northern Territory to inspect broadcasting and communication systems and facilities? If so, will the minister be visiting the various isolated communities throughout the Territory to discuss and inspect at first hand the problems experienced by people living in these remote areas?

ANSWER

I can confirm the proposal of the honourable Minister for Posts and Telecommunications to visit the Northern Territory. If I remember correctly, the dates of his visit will be 14, 15 and 16 March. A proposed itinerary has been submitted to the minister by my office. I am not aware whether he has accepted the proposed itinerary but I can assure all honourable members that the itinerary did not include too many city bright lights. It is out intention to get the Minister for Posts and Telecommunications out into rural communities, Aboriginal communities and pastoral properties. We also wish him to see some of the problems of School of the Air and the problems of larger communities away from the track - places such as Nhulumbuy and perhaps even Groote Eylandt. I myself will take the minister around to show him what facilities we are lacking which his department should provide.

305 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORTS and RECREATION

Does the minister intend to resign from his position on the executive of various youth and community organisations which are eligible to apply to him for community grants?

ANSWER

No.

306 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORTS and RECREATION

The Minister for Social Security has made available 5 places for Northern Territorians to attend the International Year of the Child national conference to be held at the ANU in Canberra. Who are the 5 people who will attend - nominations were to have been in by 19 February - and what was the basis for the selection of the 5 people?

ANSWER

It is true that 5 people from the Northern Territory have been invited to attend the IYC conference to be held in Canberra. Unfortunately, the letter I have outlining that proposal is dated 22 February. When I have had time to speak to officers of the department, I will be able to advise her of the criteria to be used to select the people who will go to that conference.

307 Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Recent advertisements in local newspapers have offered rejected roof trusses for sale. Can he advise if it is legal for these to be sold and, if not, what action he proposes to take?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I hope that my answer will not offer any matter that offends Standing Orders. When I was browsing through Friday's paper on Saturday morning, this particular advertisement struck my eye rather forcefully. The advertisement clearly states that the trusses are rejects. All I can say is that I would caution a person purchasing the trusses for use. Perhaps they would be well advised to seek advice from the Northern Territory Board or wherever they obtain their building permit before making an offer to purchase. This would be particularly so in places where the cyclone building code operates.

308 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware that the recently passed law relating to registration of births according to tradition and ethnic custom is insufficient to do the task it was established to do? Will he take steps to ensure that the defect is attended to as a matter of urgency as it is causing great concern to migrant communities.

ANSWER

The matter has not been drawn to my attention by the department. However, I will certainly investigate the question and, if an amendment is required to enable the legislation to operate as intended, I will ask the officers of the Department of Law to prepare such amendments so that it can be introduced during the course of this sittings.

309 Mr OLIVER to TREASURER

In view of the proposal that the casino in Alice Springs may be constructed east of the Todd River, whose responsibility will it be to provide the crossing over that river?

ANSWER

The proposed developers will have the opportunity to speak with the local council on this matter to see whether there could not be some cooperative effort. However, the responsibility for constructing any crossing over the Todd River to serve a particular development would be the responsibility of that developer. Before commencing any such work, the company would be required to seek the necessary clearances from the relevant government departments to ensure that the work specifications are acceptable.

310 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

He is aware that there is a 23 hour weekly maximum employment period for teachers of musical instruments. What provision is being made, with the change-over of education, for the provision of permanent employment for music instrument instructors and when is it likely that they will be able to be so employed?

ANSWER

I am very concerned to see a program of music instruction developed in our schools. I was sold this bill of goods very forcefully in South Australia during an Australian Education Council conference. One of the best methods of developing such a program of music instruction is to obtain the services of people who are not necessarily full-time teachers. The reason for this is quite simple: a person might be expert in instructing in music but might not have the qualifications otherwise necessary to be a formal member of the Commonwealth Teaching Service. If we are going to insist on full CTS functions, then of course we are going to reduce the available field in any form of specialist instruction. On the other hand, as long as the unions maintain that to be a full-time teacher a person must be a member of the CTS and must therefore have other teaching qualifications, we find ourselves in an impasse. It is a matter of negotiation with the relative federation. It is also a matter of providing the service in the best and most efficient manner possible and, at this stage, the most effective method is by part-time teachers. Whether or not they actually teach a full classroom day is irrelevant. The fact is they must remain part-time teachers. Certainly, this government will be seeking to find within its resources, after the transfer of the function of education, sufficient money to enlarge on these part-time teaching functions. Of course, that is necessarily a consequence of the deal we get out of the Commonwealth. Those negotiations are going on with the Commonwealth at the moment and there is very little I can add to that.

311 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

When will the government produce the report of the Premiums Advisory Committee which was convened in December 1977?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the report that the honourable member refers to, Mr Speaker, but I will take action to check whether there is such a report. In fact, only the other day I was told that the Premiums Advisory Committee had never met. But if there is such a report, I will obtain it and consider

it and decide whether it should be produced in this House or not.

We have, of course, the incident recently of documents of a commercial nature being leaked to the press and leaked to vested interests. I do not believe that every document that is created for the purposes of government should necessarily be released to this House or to the public. I believe it is the practice elsewhere for opposition members and especially the leader of the opposition to be briefed on a confidential basis by officers and indeed by his opposite number. However, the problem here seems to be in keeping anything at all confidential and the interests of the public are often not served by the premature release, or indeed the release at all sometimes, of certain information.

313 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Has the government examined the effect on prices of meat supplied to local consumers with the upgrading of the Meneling meatworks to export standard and, if so, what will the effect be?

ANSWER

The government has not examined that question but my information concerning the proposed upgrading of Meneling abattoirs is that they will provide meat to local consumers as well as having an export capacity. I understand there are people in the pastoral community who own quite a number of cattle and are prepared to support the Meneling abattoirs when they are upgraded on exactly that basis, so that they will provide people like Woolworths and Coles and the smaller butcher shops around the metropolitan area with beef that would be a lot cheaper to retail than beef currently sent up from Melbourne, Perth and other places.

314 Mr Oliver to MINISTER for HEALTH

I understand that a psychiatrist has now taken up duty at the Alice Springs hospital. Will there be a psychiatric ward at this hospital and, if so, when will it open?

ANSWER

The honourable member is quite correct. The department has been able to recruit a psychiatrist in the Alice Springs area. I believe the workload in that region is quite heavy. It has been difficult to recruit someone for this area, Mr Speaker; it has taken the department 3 years. I can give the honourable member an assurance, though, that it will not take 3 years to open a psychiatric ward for the doctor to work in. It is anticipated that the ward will be operating by the end of April.

315 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I would preface my question by saying that I welcome the invitation of the minister, made in response to my question yesterday, for people to submit ideas to him on the future use of the Fannie Bay gaol site. Can he assure people who accept that invitation that their submissions will receive more consideration than those of the 200 or so citizens who responded in good faith to the invitation to comment on development proposals for the Arafura hostel site only to find their objections on certain road developments ignored?

ANSWER

I can assure the honourable member for Fannie Bay that people who respond to the invitation to suggest how the government should use the Fannie Bay gaol site will be seriously considered. To follow up the reference at the end of her question about the Arafura hostel site, the Town Planning Board put on display 3 alternative proposals for re-zoning and re-routing of roads in the Arafura area to test public reaction. She claims in her statement that the objections that were raised - and there were quite a number of them - were overruled by the government. I deny that completely, Mr Speaker. The matter has now been put on formal display by the Town Planning Board. One of the 3 options that were on display has been put on public display formally as a proposed amendment to the Darwin Town Plan whereupon objections that are received will be considered. People will have the opportunity to appear in person before the board in support of their objection and then the board's recommendations will be submitted to the Executive

Council for approval. So I deny any allegation that the government has overruled the views of people who have formally objected to the proposal.

316 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has any decision been made on the future use of the Darwin Hospital as yet?

ANSWER

As honourable members would know - and I think I have said it before in this House - it is anticipated that the Casuarina Hospital will open to take patients in January 1980, although the commissioning period has already started. The department has proposed the use of the present Darwin Hospital as a psychiatric unit, a geriatric unit and a rehabilitation unit. I might add that I believe funds are about to be committed for this purpose. Funds have been committed only in the last week for the upgrading of one ward for the introduction of the rehabilitation unit at the Darwin Hospital.

317 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Has the government examined the feasibility of having 2 export abattoirs operating in the Top End - that is Point Stuart, currently existing, and Meneling as proposed - with regard to the number of cattle in the Top End and, if they have made such a feasibility study, would the government make that study public?

ANSWER

No, the government has not undertaken that study and we are not proposing to undertake such a study. Our attitude to export abattoirs, Mr Speaker, is that we would prefer that cattle were killed in the Northern Territory, if possible. There are abattoirs outside the borders of the Northern Territory which provide nothing as far as the economy of the Northern Territory is concerned. So our view is pretty hard on this one.

318 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When can we expect completion of the roadworks on the Stuart Highway in the Winnellie-Berrimah area?

ANSWER

I understand this road will be completed towards the end of July or open to traffic in July this year. Some other information that I might supply to the honourable member is that the contract was for \$1.8m and the estimated value of work completed to date is \$1.3m. The work extends over 3½ kilometres and, as I said, it should be ready for traffic at the end of July.

319 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

Can the minister inform the Assembly what staff has been allotted to him to assist him in the discharge of his ministerial duties?

ANSWER

My own personal staff, Mr Speaker, is one ministerial officer and one private secretary. However, in the departmental staff there is an officer in charge of youth, sport and recreation, a senior project officer, an area co-ordinator in Alice Springs, a project officer and a grants-in-aid officer. At the executive level in the department I share Mr Ray McHenry,

who is the department head for community development; Mr Ray Norman, the director of community development who is also the director of youth, sport and recreation, and Mr Bruce Alcorn, the director of community welfare who is responsible for the ethnic affairs division in my portfolio. At present there is no one employed in the field of ethnic affairs. However, applications are being processed now for two positions.

320 Mr BALLANTYNE to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the site delivery date been set for the recently purchased Shark Cat for the emergency services at Gove and has provision been made for housing this boat and its equipment?

ANSWER

The Shark Cat has now been fitted out completely and has gone through trials which took place on Darwin Harbour. I understand it will be barged to Gove and should arrive there about 4 March. On arrival in Gove, I understand it will be housed in a large shed adjacent to the slipway which I believe is to be taken over from Nabalco on some arrangement that has been worked out. I further understand that, as at March 8, the Shark Cat will commence to be used in emergency and rescue work at Gove.

321 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware that at present, when masters of apprentices close their businesses for whatever reason, the apprentices have no method of obtaining proper positions to continue their apprenticeships other than their own initiative which is often insufficient? The Apprentices Board can offer no help at all. If he is aware of this, what action can his government take to ensure the continuation of apprenticeships which are interrupted in this way?

ANSWER

I am aware that this sort of situation could happen. If an apprentice is currently under articles and his master ceases in his business, the apprentice would then have the problem of finding a master to whom he can assign his articles of apprenticeship. I believe, however, that the Apprenticeship Board gives every possible assistance to apprentices to help them find other masters. On the other hand, the government has a cabinet submission coming before it at present for the preparation of completely new apprenticeship legislation and industrial training legislation. A cabinet decision will be made on this within the course of the next month. Drafting instructions will be issued and I hope that a new apprentices bill will be introduced into this Assembly by May of this year, certainly by the August sittings at the latest.

322 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

There are large numbers of dogs roaming around certain areas of Alice Springs. What steps, if any, are being taken to keep these dogs under control?

ANSWER

You have heard me mention the problem of these animals in Alice Springs previously and, of course, the problem is not peculiar to Alice Springs alone. Efforts to control dogs have been made by the Aboriginal people and it would be nice if the rest of the community would follow the lead of these people. A proposal was accepted by the council and assistance given



by the Division of Primary Industry and the Department of Industrial Development, much to their horror I understand. The people themselves would take the dogs and place them in council vehicles whereupon they were taken to AIB and put down in humane circumstances. The program will result in about 200 dogs in the Alice Springs region being put down and these dogs are selected by the communities themselves. The communities, through the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, have also embarked on a program of having up to 100 dogs speyed by a private vet and a further 100 dogs inoculated against various animal diseases as well as being speyed. The program is a success story. I do not have the latest details of how many dogs have been treated. I would commend the action of the Aboriginal groups around Alice Springs and I hope that groups right throughout the Northern Territory urban and fringe areas take on board their initiative.

323 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it a fact that he has written to the Prime Minister recommending the transfer of the Aboriginal housing function to the Northern Territory government? If this is the case, has the Prime Minister replied and what are the terms of that reply?

ANSWER

I ask him to place his question on notice.

324 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he advise whether construction of the Yirrkala road will commence this year? If so, will local material be used and will the road work be extended to the Yirrkala settlement?

ANSWER

The construction of the Yirrkala road is programmed for the 1979-80 year. The testing of local materials such as laterite and bauxite is being undertaken at present and we hope that that material will be suitable for this road. The last part of the honourable member's question related to the extension of the road to Yirrkala itself; we will be including that section of road in the 1979-80 program as well.

325 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

My question relates to the Employment (Leave of Absence) Bill which his government introduced into this Assembly on 29 November. Honourable members will recall that the opposition introduced bills to bring protection to the Territory's 10,000 workers who are not covered by awards. The government threw those bills out and introduced its own. I ask the Chief Minister whether the government will be proceeding with the bill?

ANSWER

This is a curious question because the honourable member for Arnhem asked the same question yesterday and I gave him an answer yesterday. He certainly spoke to me in this House about that bill. The position is that the government has been negotiating with the chief judge of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission and with the Minister for Industrial Relations in relation to the possibility of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission taking proceedings to establish what would amount to an award for people in the Northern Territory who are not covered by an award. At present, these negotiations are incomplete and it is not the

intention of the government to proceed at this sittings with the Employment (Leave of Absence) Bill. We propose to continue our discussions with the various arms of the federal government. If it is necessary to proceed with the legislation, we will do so at the May sittings.

326 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What is being done to eradicate the noxious weed hyptis from the Obiri Rock area?

ANSWER

The Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission is aware of the problem of infestation by hyptis at Obiri Rock and it is concerned. Apparently, slashing was carried out at Obiri Rock during the last dry season and some attempt at burning off was made to see if regeneration could be prevented. Weedicides have not been used at this stage because they are considered to be ineffective according to the advice that we have. It should be noted that control of the Kakadu National Park has now passed to the Australian Parks and Wildlife Service but the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission will do its best to continue its program of eradication of hyptis at Obiri Rock.

327 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it the government's policy to publish details of loans granted by the Territory Development Corporation?

ANSWER

The short answer is no, and I doubt if you will find one financial institution in the world - unless it was in a different type of country under a different regime - that would publish that sort of information.

328 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What steps has the Department of Health taken to recruit a dental surgeon?

ANSWER

To the best of my knowledge, the department has been working on this and has, in fact, recruited a dental surgeon. The position was filled in mid-February.

329 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise the House why Kakadu National Park has not yet been proclaimed and also when it is likely to be so proclaimed, given the statement he made in November in this House?

ANSWER

The honourable member for Nightcliff's question, I think, should be addressed to the Minister for Science and Environment in the Senate in Canberra. I am unable to give answers on his behalf and I suggest that, if the honourable member for Nightcliff wants an answer to that question, she write to the Minister for Science and Environment.

330 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What has been done or will be done in the near future to provide an adequate supply of rubbish bins and the emptying of same to help campers and visitors

to our beauty spots and wildlife interest areas and encourage them to keep the countryside clean and tidy?

ANSWER

The government certainly does want to encourage day-trippers and campers and tourism generally in the Territory. At the present time the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission has a number of beauty spots such as Howard Springs, Berry Springs, Katherine Gorge and some that have been left to us by the Commonwealth Parks and Wildlife Service, and I believe a good job in clearing rubbish from those sites is carried out. There are, however, other spots for which there is no apparent direct government responsibility at the present time. I have asked the Parks and Wildlife Commission to look at the question of maintaining some of these areas, such as Tumbling Waters and so on.

However, I believe our day-trippers, our tourists and campers could perhaps be a bit more careful with their rubbish and, if they were, the Territory would be a much better place. Nowhere in the Northern Territory can you go where, if you walk a 100 yards, you will not kick a white can.

The Parks and Wildlife Commission has commissioned a report by a Mr Gilson, an American expert on waste and rubbish disposal. That report has just arrived in my office. I propose to read it over this weekend and I expect to table it in this Assembly during the course of next week. Mr Gilson is apparently a world-renowned authority on this subject and I believe his report, whether it is accepted or whether it is not - I do not even know what the recommendations are yet - will at least provide an area of debate and a springboard from where we can move forward either to legislation or to a program of awakening public conscience about the disposal of litter.

331 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

Can the minister advise if any of the applications received for International Year of the Child grants have yet been approved and will he undertake to have the applications received processed as a matter of urgency so that suitable projects can proceed in the remaining 10 months of the Year of the Child?

ANSWER

Two grants have been made, totalling \$50,000, by the Department of Social Security. Applications for such grants must be processed by the Office of Child Care and the only person who will be approving those applications for finance will be Senator Margaret Guilfoyle herself.

In relation to the Territory's contribution of \$30,000 - \$15,000 to 30 June this year and \$15,000 for the remainder of the financial year - I will be processing applications as soon as they come to hand.

332 Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER

Is it a fact that the Racing and Gaming Commissioner has new proposals under consideration for the taxation of the racing industry and, if that is a fact, can he inform the Assembly what these proposals are?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory Cabinet has considered and made decisions in relation to restructuring taxes in the racing and gaming industry. This information is being gathered together for release now and will be the subject of

legislation before this House during these sittings. So the honourable member will be advised in due course.

333 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

Is he aware that when the International Year of the Child Committee was first formed under the auspices of the now Minister for Community Development, a position on that committee was available for a child resident in the Northern Territory? Is he also aware that the committee has been meeting without such representation? Will the Minister make every effort to ensure that a child is again on the IYC Committee - one of the students attending a Northern Territory school?

ANSWER

Yes.

334 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to TREASURER

Are free loads of topsoil from the rural area still being issued at government expense to tenants of Housing Commission houses in urban areas?

ANSWER

The Housing Commission itself does not arrange for the provision of topsoil to its tenants. The Housing Commission tenants can participate in a scheme whereby they themselves order and spread topsoil in their yards and they are reimbursed by the Housing Commission up to a maximum of \$100. The honourable member's question relates to where the soil comes from; I think it may well come from the rural area of Darwin. She has not been very specific, I think any questions relating to the removal of soil, be it topsoil or otherwise, should be directed to the Minister for Mines and Energy.

335 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When is it planned to commence restoration of the historic stone buildings on the Fannie Bay gaol site since restoration is now proceeding on some other historical buildings? In particular, the old infirmary on the gaol site is considered very highly by the National Trust and has great historical value?

ANSWER

The whole question of the rehabilitation of many buildings in Darwin is a joint project of the Department of Community Development, the Department of Transport and Works and the Chief Minister's Department. No firm decision has been made as yet in respect of the Fannie Bay gaol site relics.

Incidentally, it is important that the experts should formally advise government as to how they see the restoration or the maintenance of those old buildings. It gets so many conflicting versions of what are the most important parts of the Fannie Bay gaol. It is interesting that the honourable member for Fannie Bay mentions the infirmary. Most people seem to think the old gallows are more important. It is rather odd that we should preserve what was probably designed to preserve people for the gallows.

The other thing that must be borne in mind is that the question of what buildings are to be preserved must be thought concurrently with the question of the future use of the site. Quite obviously, site use will be significantly constrained if isolated buildings throughout the site are

to be preserved. There is also the original cell block which some believe has some ghoulis attraction to tourists, in the same manner as the old Melbourne gaol or Ned Kelly's skull. These matters are all under study at the moment.

336 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Why does the Alice Springs council not yet have bylaws? Are restrictions or restraints holding up the provisions of those bylaws?

ANSWER

This probably calls for a legal opinion because the attitude of the town council has been that the provisions of the bylaw-making or enabling sections of the Local Government Act are insufficient to guarantee them success in court if they choose to prosecute an offence under bylaws made pursuant to those provisions. My advice is - and this comes from the highest-level specialists in this field - that the present provisions in the section are sufficient for the making of enforceable bylaws. Everyone got into a bit of a panic in respect of bylaws when a recent decision of a court of summary jurisdiction upheld the appeal against the removal of a vehicle by a ratepayer of Darwin. The fact is that the council just happened to have made a bylaw in respect of which there was no legislation to support such a bylaw. It was just unfortunate that the issue which came to light in the public mind was one that was invalid. In respect of all the other sections my advice is that there is no reason why the Alice Springs town council cannot make effective and enforceable bylaws.

There is, of course, another consideration: their enforcement and the cost of enforcing them. The secondary concern of the Alice Springs town council is that it is obviously going to have to employ a number of staff to enforce the bylaws and run a very slight risk of ever recovering funds through the court sufficient to pay their wages. It is like third-party premiums, I suppose, Mr Speaker; we only get what we are prepared to pay for and if we want bylaws enforced, we are simply going to have to pay for them. I think it is a matter for the ratepayers to judge how much they are prepared to pay to have enforceable bylaws instituted by their council.

337 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What is the estimated cost of the gas turbine which the Electricity Commission intends to construct at Berrimah and when is it expected that the turbine might be operational?

ANSWER

It is very difficult at this stage of the investigations to put a price on what the turbine might cost. However, it is anticipated that the cost will be in the \$6m or \$7m category. For the second part of the honourable member's question, it is planned to have the alternate supply operating by about March or April 1980.

338 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is the Northern Territory government engaged in on-going negotiations with the federal authorities over the degree of Northern Territory government control over Kakadu National Park and are these negotiations impeding the declaration of the park?

ANSWER

The answers to the 2 parts of that question are yes and no, respectively.

339 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

Professor Gisela Konopka is coming to Darwin in March to conduct a seminar for 35 people following her presentation of papers for the International Year of the Child in Canberra. On what basis are these 35 people to be selected to attend the Darwin seminar?

ANSWER

Professor Konopka has been invited from Minnesota to speak to the Social Security IYC National Conference in Canberra on Youth, the Family and the Community on 16-19 March. The professor will also conduct seminars in some states including the Northern Territory and, as her time in Australia is limited, these seminars will be organised by the Department of Social Security. Because of her professional commitments and her mature years, the professor has requested certain considerations in relation to her Australian visit and the Social Security Department is respecting these considerations at the same time as offering the maximum opportunity for her to share her experience and expertise in group work process and problems of adolescents with professionals in the field.

The professor will arrive in Alice Springs on 26 March and will be available for informal consultation with persons working in the childcare field. She has indicated she will not give a seminar. She will commence her Darwin program on Wednesday 28 March with a seminar commencing at 10.30 am. Her contribution is expected to last at least 2 hours. Attendance at the seminar has been limited to 30 and currently a group of people is being selected by the Department of Social Security in conjunction with the Northern Territory government. The list has not been finalised but it is anticipated that participants in the seminar will be people working in these fields within and outside of government whose involvement would provide maximum benefit to children's service agencies.

Mr Speaker, while I am on my feet, I would like to give the honourable member for Nightcliff some further information that she sought yesterday in relation to the criteria for persons attending the national conference in Canberra from 16 to 19 March. I undertook to provide her with the information later on in these sittings. A number of people from the Northern Territory will be attending the conference. Some have been nominated directly by organisations that they represent and some will be sponsored by government departments. The Department of Social Security is providing 5 economy-class air fares and is meeting the cost of attendance at the conference. I have determined that these places will go to persons in the non-government sector. The availability of travel and conference concessions has been drawn to the attention of various steering committees throughout the Northern Territory and public notices inviting nominations from persons in the community will be appearing in the press throughout the Territory this week.

340 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

This is a supplementary question to the one I asked a while ago. The minister gave a reply that the estimated cost of the gas turbine would be \$6m to \$7m. I have before me a press release emanating from the Electricity Commissioner's office, putting a cost estimate of \$12m on this structure. My question to the honourable minister is, on what basis was cabinet approval given - on the basis of a cost estimate of \$6m to \$7m or

a cost of \$12m which the Electricity Commissioner seems to understand it will cost?

ANSWER

If I could just clarify a point for the honourable member and for other members of the House concerning the purchase of this gas turbine, when the decision was taken to purchase a gas turbine it was a decision taken through sheer necessity for the people of Darwin. Having taken the decision to purchase the turbine to provide power, we were then confronted with the question of how much, what sort, when will it be available, etc. At the time the decision was taken, it was anticipated that the cost would be \$6m to \$7m and that the target date for having it in operation would be this November. Now I would expect that we will not have any final information on this until the Electricity Commission has been able to do a complete study of the suppliers throughout the world, concerning this particular generator.

I do not think we are likely to have anything in our hands before the end of this month, so any figures - \$6m, \$7m or \$20m - are purely speculative until the manufacturers come back to us and say this is the product, this is the price and this is the delivery time. Then the government will be able to make a firm decision. The honourable member has asked how we arrived at it and this is how.

341 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has serious consideration been given by his department to the removal of the racecourse from Fannie Bay? If so, what use is being considered for this large area of land and where is it proposed that the racecourse be re-established?

ANSWER

The department has not looked at all of the question of relocating the Fannie Bay racecourse. There has been a suggestion, and it is only a suggestion at this stage, that the dog track might be better off incorporated with the horse track to save on costs of facilities and so on, because both organisations running their own tracks are finding some difficulty to do so financially. The question which I, in fact, raised myself was that if we were going to look at a major move such as establishing a dog track within the existing race track, perhaps we should look at the future needs of Darwin over a 20-plus-year period to see whether in fact the race track is sufficient to stay there for that period before any large capital investment is poured into the area. That is exactly as far as it has got. They are only suggestions for alternative uses for the area should the race track be re-located with much more land to make it suitable for a long term use. Certainly, the question will then come up about what should be done about the existing area but at present it has not been addressed at all.

344 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Have personal staff of ministers been involved in interviews for appointment of officers of the Northern Territory Public Service?

ANSWER

I could not give an exhaustive answer to the question because, obviously, I do not know everything that goes on. Certainly, I can say that, to my knowledge, personal staff have been present on occasions at interviews for people who are seeking appointment to the Northern Territory Public Service.

345 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Chief Minister any details regarding the formation of the Northern Territory mounted police club?

ANSWER

I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that, since taking up office, he has had a number of approaches concerning the establishment of a mounted police unit with the Northern Territory Police Force. The first approach was initiated by serving members of the force. The Police Commissioner indicated to the people concerned that the establishment and maintenance costs would be far too high in relation to the limited operational advantage of such a unit. However, he acknowledges that there could be public relation benefits and some limited search and rescue benefits associated with such a scheme. He has also indicated that he would be sympathetic to the establishment of a mounted police club formed by members of the Northern Territory Police Force on a volunteer basis. He also indicated that if such a club was formed he would be prepared to give it some recognition and limited support. He has agreed in principle to support the club in the following areas. For instance, if it participates in a function such as a procession, agricultural show and so on other than in competitive events, he would regard time involved as duty time provided it fell within normal rostered hours. He would not always be prepared to pay overtime and this concession would always be subject to the exigencies of the force. He would adjust the scale of uniform issue to provide jodhpurs of the type already supplied to motor cycle police. He has agreed in principle to paying the cost of certain accoutrements, such as saddle blankets bearing the Northern Territory police logo. In the event of a search and rescue situation arising in which the use of mounted personnel would be useful, he would be prepared to hire the horses and pick up incidental expenses associated with the operation. He has, however, indicated that the police unit will not bear any costs of purchasing horses, general saddlery, agistment, training or any of the incidental operating costs, although certain areas of minor expenditure are still open to negotiation at this stage.

346 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

I will preface my question, Mr Speaker, by reminding him of the words of the Minister for Industrial Development in the budget speech of last year, taken from the Hansard of 19 September. At that time, the minister then responsible for the Electricity Commission said, and I quote: "I think I should draw reference to the Opposition Leader's remarks about his idea that electricity costs would increase. I think that is a fairly reasonable assumption for him to make. Certainly, when you look at the cost of fuel which has just hit the commission, as I said, after they had planned their budgets for this year, there will be some...".



Mr SPEAKER: Order! Would the honourable member ask the question.

Ms D'ROZARIO: Mr Speaker, my question to the honourable Minister for Mines and Energy is, in view of the remarks of the Chief Minister in the adjournment debate yesterday, has the government now changed its mind about whether or not increases in electricity tariff will take place before 30 June this year?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, there has been so much preamble, I have lost the train of thought on the question. I would like to make plain, from my point of view, my understanding of the government's position. I do not think this government has ever advocated that there would not be increases in the costs of power as time goes on. The reality is that, while the world costs of energy of whatever nature continue to rise, so too will other costs and as wages go up, so too will the cost of providing any service to the community. What we have done as a government is committed ourselves to the principle that electricity charges will not be any higher than comparable prices in north Queensland. The reason for the government adopting the north Queensland standard, as the honourable Chief Minister said yesterday, is very simply that in north Queensland most power is generated by power houses that have been built next to coal mines which is a very economical method of generating power and it is not an unreasonable proposition that the Northern Territory accept this comparison. We think it is a good proposal for the Northern Territory, anyway, because if you look at the costs of power throughout the states today, the costs of power in the Northern Territory and Queensland are not terribly much dearer than the costs of power in Hobart, New South Wales and in the ACT. In a lot of these places, power is generated extensively with hydro and I find it quite strange that a place like Tasmania, where they generate power for about a cent a unit with machinery they installed as far back as forty years ago, is selling power to its consumers for the same price that we are paying in the Northern Territory. That is their bad luck, but our good luck is that we, as a government, do not require the people of the Northern Territory to pay more for their power than would be paid by comparable consumers in Queensland where power is generated at a very economical rate.

347 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

When the Casuarina Hospital opens, is it true that the casualty section now provided at the Darwin Hospital will close down?

ANSWER

I did mention in the House yesterday that the only functions that would remain at the Darwin Hospital, as far as I understand, when the transfer to Casuarina comes in January 1980 will be the functions of psychiatric, rehabilitation and geriatric units. If the support groups that would normally go with a casualty ward are not at the Darwin Hospital and they are at Casuarina, then it would seem to me to follow that the casualty unit should be at Casuarina where all the medical support groups are.

Mrs Lawrie: It's a long way to go.

Mr TUXWORTH: Mr Speaker, the honourable member for Nightcliff has just interjected that it is a long way to go. In terms of time, I would think the difference between going to Darwin Hospital or to Casuarina from any point in Darwin might be a very debatable question. The department has worked on the premise that the cost of operating two independent casualty units - and I assume here that the honourable member for Port

Darwin is referring to a casualty unit in the sense that it has very extensive operating and other facilities that are needed in times of casualty - then the duplication of that service within a ten-mile radius would seem to me to be something that has to be very closely looked at.

348 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

My question refers to a question I asked without notice on Tuesday 21 November 1978 concerning the vexed question of Northumberland Insurance. At that stage the honourable Chief Minister gave certain assurances that he was consulting...

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Would the honourable member ask the question, please.

Mrs LAWRIE: Could he advise the House the present state of negotiations regarding people who were insured with Northumberland Insurance and who have not yet received compensation under third-party insurance?

ANSWER

If my memory serves me correctly, at the time the honourable member for Nightcliff asked the original question, I pointed out that the liability was of course incurred before the Northern Territory government came into existence and various legal questions would have to be examined. At that time I sent a memorandum to my Department of Law requesting that the legal position be examined and a cabinet paper prepared recommending a course of action to the government. Up till the present no such paper has reached cabinet. The Department of Law in my experience generally acts with a certain degree of expediency and I assume that the problems they are encountering are not easy ones. I will, however, inquire as to the current position and I may be able to inform the House later in the sittings as to the government's intention. But I feel sure that if we are able to indemnify victims of the collapse of the Northumberland Insurance Company, then no doubt honourable members will hear about it in the media pretty smartly.

349 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I ask this question on behalf of the honourable member for Elsey and myself. When will a principal be appointed to the Katherine Rural Education Centre?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, it seems you have an ally in your efforts to have a Katherine Rural Education Centre established. As you are aware, the present position is that the staff are acting as advisers to a committee to come up with a course structure. The position of principal is an important one. It is a matter for the department to make that appointment. Certainly, I would not intervene in it. I would be anxious to see the appointment made as soon as possible in order that there be a focal point for all coordination. It then comes down, of course, to a question of who is going to provide the principal. Is it the Darwin Community College or is it the Department of Education? After all, it is a joint venture, as I pointed out yesterday. I think it is important to recognise, though, that it is a joint venture because the Darwin Community College has the resources to substantially fund the operation. It has certainly always been my wish that it become a departmental operation to give it the broadest possible basis across all ranges of education to rural children and young people - and in fact, not so young people, anyone who wants to get into the practical side of agriculture and rural education in general. For that reason, Mr Speaker, I would see it as being an appointment of

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the Department of Education rather than the Darwin Community College. The present senior officer there at the moment, a Mr Miles Davis I understand, is a very capable gentleman. The actual appointment, though, is quite beyond my control.

350 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is it the intention of Federal Pacific Hotels to submit an environmental impact statement in relation to the proposed casino on Mindil Beach? If not, how does the minister come to the conclusion that he is satisfied as to the environmental effects that this proposal will have on the foreshore?

ANSWER

The control of environmental matters in relation to the development of a casino at Mindil Beach will be handled by the government in the preparation of the lease documents concerned, in the establishment of set-backs and the like. I think it is opportune to point out in this regard, because I made a statement that was printed in the press yesterday that the Northern Territory government would not be requiring an environmental impact statement on the subject, that the proposal is considered to be an improvement to the area rather than deleterious. Any one who has been down there recently or before and has seen the Mindil Beach Caravan Park - where it is constructed and what has already been done to the foredune and the construction of a bund wall there, all of which are most unfortunate instances of the past but are there nonetheless - will appreciate this. The casino complex will be set back considerably from the foredune and the seaward boundary of the current caravan park. The average set-back from that boundary will be 229 feet. The minimum set-back will be 98 feet and that is the set-back from the seaward boundary of the existing caravan park. The high-water mark is between 20 and 80 feet further seaward than that particular boundary.

We have a situation where the people who are most concerned with this matter, the Save Mindil Committee, with whom I have had talks and correspondence, are pushing the point that no development should take place on the foreshores in Darwin that is less than 66 feet from the highwater mark. In fact, these developments will be almost double that. The minimum set-back will be some 120 feet from the highwater mark. Having regard to that and the sensitive area of the foredune and the fact that the company proposes to completely develop and landscape the area, a very substantial area of land outside the company's lease which it has undertaken in the agreement to landscape professionally and maintain on behalf of the city corporation as public open space so that it enhances the actual site of the casino, we see no particular necessity to go deeper into it than this. We have received one letter from a gentleman who has a degree in science. He raised a number of questions about matters like wind deflection and so on and these were examined by the various departmental officers who make assessments of these matters before environmental impact statements are prepared. Their assessment was that the wind deflection factors, the eddy currents that it was claimed would be created by casino development and the problems of tidal surge in the event of a cyclone breaking down the foredune are all adequately catered for in the existing proposals.

351 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What is delaying the issue of titles over land at Railway Dam, Kulaluk and Knuckeyes Lagoon to Aboriginal land groups?

ANSWER

There are 3 areas in Darwin that the government has been negotiating with Aboriginal groups with a view to settling needs claims. Land at Railway Dam has been offered and accepted by the applicants in that area. It has been rezoned over the previous 12 months as a camping area to accord with the Aboriginal applicants' wishes and a lease instrument is being prepared at present. I hope to be able to hand over that lease instrument within the next fortnight.

A survey of the Kulaluk area is under way at this very time and is expected to be completed at the end of the month. The Aboriginal Development Foundation was forwarded a copy of the proposed lease conditions for Kulaluk on 8 February for their comment. To date, no reply has been received from them. Statutory action to close roads in the area is currently being undertaken. However, due to the various time limitations in those statutory actions, these roads probably will not be closed for about 5 weeks. This will delay, to some degree, the final preparation of the lease for Kulaluk.

In the Knuckeyes Lagoon area, a large portion of land that was originally applied for is under hydrological study at present because of the nature of the lagoon's environment. Its future use cannot be determined at present. However, a 22 hectare portion of the claim is not under study and has been offered to the Aboriginal Development Foundation which is acting on behalf of the claimants. This offer was made on 15 December last year and, to date, no response has been received to that offer. Should the area be acceptable to the applicants, the only impediment to lease issue would be a survey of the area which should not take very long at all.

To sum up, the Northern Territory government is anxious to proceed with the granting of leases over these areas to Aboriginal groups so that they may have locations around Darwin where they can establish permanent facilities for themselves. I am concerned at the delay and will take action to have officers follow up the correspondence that has not been replied to.

352 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

I ask this question on behalf of numerous people who made arrangements to come into the House this morning to listen to the debate. Why is the Chief Minister not proceeding with his statement on the refusal of the Northern Territory government to register Aboriginal titles as he advised the opposition yesterday that he would?

ANSWER

I am not aware of advising the opposition that I would be making this statement today. If the opposition chooses to decide from reading newspaper reports when matters will come on in this House, then I cannot help it. I have certainly circulated copies of the statement to members of the opposition and they are aware of its contents. It is my intention to deliver the statement on Tuesday morning.

353 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Does the Chief Minister recall writing to me as late as last Monday advising that he would be delivering a statement this morning on the subject which the member for Arnhem raised?

ANSWER

I do recall writing to the honourable Leader of the Opposition but I do not recall exactly the contents of the letter. I recall saying to him that we would be making a statement on transport which we hoped would be debated on Tuesday, and that we would then make statements on health, employment and on public roads on Aboriginal lands.

354 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What is the government's policy in relation to the disposal of its demountables and caravans?

ANSWER

The government's policy is to get rid of the demountables before they disintegrate into dust; they have been around for too long. We are working on a program of departmental requirements. A certain number have been put aside for the operations of the Territory Development Corporation. We will also be getting rid of the caravans along the highway. We are having an auction to dispose of those on 30 March.

355 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to TREASURER

When will the previous owners' heirs receive compensation for land occupied by the Northern Territory government for a pine tree plantation on Howard Springs Road? This land was compulsorily acquired in the 1930s.

ANSWER

I suggest that she place the question on notice.

356 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Why was it necessary for 8 members of the staff of the Department of Community Development to travel to Alice Springs at considerable public expense to appear before the Welfare Needs Inquiry? Why was it not possible for the inquiry to travel to Darwin for this purpose?

ANSWER

I find the question rather extraordinary. Why ask me? The inquiry is one that was set up by this Assembly. I would suggest that she is perfectly entitled to contact the chairman and ask why he chose to sit in Alice Springs and call for those officers.

357 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

He stated in reply to a previous question that lease document proposals concerning Kulaluk had been sent to the Aboriginal Development Foundation. Were they also sent to the people principally concerned at Kulaluk, the traditional owners and to whom is it expected that the lease will be issued, the Aboriginal Development Foundation or traditional owners at Kulaluk?

ANSWER

I understand the Aboriginal Development Foundation is acting on behalf of the claimants of the area.

Mrs LAWRIE: The claimants do not know that.

Mr PERRON: That is funny because I was at a meeting with members of both groups in the Chief Minister's office to discuss Kulaluk. The correspondence that has been entered into is the draft lease conditions to test the reaction as to whether they would be acceptable. I do not know if an exercise has been taken separately to serve it on the claimants themselves. At this stage, I could not advise her in whom the lease will be vested. It will be an association - I would like to make that clear. I am opposed to vesting such leases in individuals because that is not quite within the spirit of the way the government is accepting needs claims within towns in the Northern Territory.

358 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does the government propose to introduce legislation for the control of noise in industry and, if so, when might we expect this legislation to come before the House?

ANSWER

My understanding is that that legislation would fall within the ambit of the Chief Minister under his environment responsibilities.

359 Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Could he indicate to the House when anti-noise legislation will be introduced to the Assembly?

ANSWER

I cannot indicate exactly when noise pollution legislation will be introduced into the Assembly. Certain work is going on to prepare this type of legislation. Nevertheless, I would refer honourable members to the Summary Offences Act which was passed by this Assembly last year. I believe that that legislation would afford some relief to persons who may be being harassed by noise.

360 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will he consider developing boat ramp facilities at the town beach at Nhulunbuy for the disadvantaged people in that town?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the proposition to construct a ramp in the town of Nhulunbuy. However, it is something that no doubt the township is anxious to have for its recreational needs. I shall ask my department to advise me as to what this proposal might be.

361 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he explain to the House why it is that the Police Administration Act and the Summary Offences Act, although they have received assent, have not yet come into force?

ANSWER

I believe the reason the Police Administration Act has not yet been proclaimed is that the regulations have yet to be prepared. Instructions for their preparation, I understand, are presently with the draftsmen and I believe the intention is to bring the act and regulations into force at the one time.

369 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Did the Chief Minister personally interview Mr Terry Vine for the position of director of the Office of Information, a position in the Northern Territory Public Service?

ANSWER

In relation to Mr Vine whose name has appeared in the press in the course of the last couple of days, I think it would be proper for me to inform the House of some of the history of this appointment. Mr Vine's name was first drawn to our attention by Mr Peter Simon, an officer of the Department of the Chief Minister in the information section, who interviewed applicants for the position of editor of publications. Mr Simon, I understand, appeared to think that Mr Vine had qualifications which extended beyond the field of the position of editor of publications and some time later, when I was in Melbourne with the Solicitor-General for a conference of a subordinate committee of the Constitutional Convention, I did indeed have discussions with Mr Vine in the presence of the Solicitor-General and in the presence of a member of my staff. I understand that after those discussions Mr Vine was interviewed by an assistant public service commissioner and another person whose name does not readily spring to mind.

370 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is the minister aware of an application from the Rotary Club of North Darwin for a section of land on which to establish an equestrian centre and, if the minister is aware of this application, what is the delay in approving the application?

ANSWER

I am aware of such an application by the North Darwin Rotary Club for land for activities related to horses and I understand that the delay has been somewhat associated with the adoption of the new 1978 Darwin Town Plan which the planners were naturally anxious to see finally adopted before approving new leases of land in outlying areas. In addition to this there is some disagreement between the applicants and the planning branch as to where this particular activity should be sited and I believe that, if the matter goes on for any longer, I may have to intervene myself and see if I cannot get some agreement by all parties as to the most suitable site for this activity, bearing in mind that a number of other organisations connected with horsing in the Territory and the Top End are also making applications for land and I think we should look at them collectively.

371 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Did the Chief Minister, in the presence of an officer of the Northern Territory Public Service, inform Mr Vine that he, the Chief Minister, would approach the Public Service Commissioner to suspend Mr Vine?

ANSWER

I think this question also warrants a little explanation. Certain documents came into my possession last week - I think last Wednesday or Thursday evening - and I would like to read one of the documents which is similar to another that also came into my possession. The document is a letter carrying the signature of Mr Vine addressed to Mr Len Cossey, manager of Feature Service, John Fairfax and Sons Pty Ltd, Broadway,

Sydney: "Dear Len, I have the temerity to enclose for your consideration a short piece on mode of dress for the NT's new casinos. I offer it to you for your usual substantial fee (New South Wales rights only) and you have it exclusively. If you have no objection I will continue to offer such pieces now and then. I met you once some time ago when I was in Sydney but I do not hold you to remembering that. I am better known amongst the sports staffs of both the Herald and the Sun through my association with them as sports editor of the Melbourne Herald. Should you bump into any of the sports blokes in the corridors, I would appreciate it if you would pass on my regards," and so on.

As a result of these documents coming into my possession, I consulted with the Public Service Commissioner the following morning and I consulted at the same time with the Solicitor-General. I sought the advice of these two experienced men as to what course of action should be taken. I might point out, Mr Speaker, that at the time the Director-General of my department was absent interstate and I was informed by the Public Service Commissioner that, since Mr Vine worked almost directly to me, I should probably interview him myself in the presence of a senior official of the department and inform him that it was likely that his suspension would be sought by the department from the Public Service Commissioner.

372 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Did in fact the Chief Minister say to Mr Vine, or words to this effect, that he could no longer trust him and that he would have to take his own course of action?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I said words to Mr Vine to the effect that I could no longer repose any confidence in him. I certainly did not say anything to him which would indicate that he should take a course of action such as resignation. In my view it was a situation where the Director of Information, a senior executive of the Northern Territory government employed in the Chief Minister's Department, receiving a salary of \$24,000 per annum and having access to cabinet documents and to all the most confidential material of government, had shown within 2 weeks of his appointment that for the payment of a usual substantial fee he was going to offer such pieces now and then. This indicated an intention to pursue a consistent course of action of selling information which came into his possession as a highly paid servant of the Northern Territory government. I felt that an inquiry was warranted and that his suspension was warranted pending the outcome of that inquiry. My feeling that his suspension was warranted was supported by 2 of the most senior officials in the public service whom I have just mentioned.

373 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In view of the opening of Sadadeen High School which fronts Undoolya Road and the increase in the number of children riding bicycles in that area, could the minister please advise what action is being taken to improve the poor condition of the edge of the road?

ANSWER

I suppose it would be true to say that with the advent of the new Sadadeen High School, the whole capacity and use of Undoolya Road is necessarily altered. It has certainly come to my attention, having driven along that road a number of times recently, that it is inadequate



- not just on the edges, I would think, but probably in its overall width and traffic carrying capacity, particularly having regard to this government's concern to provide safe avenues for people to ride push bikes. It is also a matter of concern to the local council. Discussions are taking place at the moment between the works manager of the Alice Springs council, which incidentally has responsibility for that road, and my department. I would anticipate shortly an application by the Alice Springs town council for approved project funding for that road and I would hope that, funds permitting and having regard to the overall budgetary requirements of the Northern Territory government during the year, we should be able to have roadworks commenced this coming financial year.

374 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

Did a ministerial officer first show him the articles written by Mr Vine and did the Treasurer subsequently cause the articles to be shown to the Chief Minister?

ANSWER

The information was in fact shown to me in relation to previous questions raised in this House to the Chief Minister and I brought the matter to the Chief Minister's attention, as I felt I most certainly should have done and would do again if the same circumstance arose.

375 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is it a fact that the Corporation of the City of Darwin or any other town council in the Northern Territory can unilaterally extend their boundaries?

ANSWER

The most effective answer to that question would just be "no" but I suppose the honourable member is entitled to a little more information than that. The process of extending the municipal boundaries of any town council is a matter for the Executive Council and the proposal normally arises from a request by the municipality that it wants to extend its present boundary. There has been a bill before the House to extend the capacity of councils to act outside their municipal boundaries but no city council has the power to unilaterally extend its boundary. It would not normally be the government's attitude to extend the municipal boundaries until such time as it feels, without being Big Brother about it, that municipal councils are capable of conducting the functions they already have within their present boundaries. I am certainly aware that many ratepayers in a number of municipalities are not completely happy with the performance of the councils at the moment. This is a matter of funding, government support and encouragement of councils. It would be very difficult for the Darwin city corporation, with the greatest respect to the people working there, to extend its boundaries when many people complain about the state of the footpaths outside of their houses. The honourable member for Nightcliff, for example, was greatly concerned at the high grass adjacent to school crossings which constitutes a serious danger to children using those crossings. I think it is a matter of doing well with what you have and then proceeding from there.

376 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Chief Minister seen the allegation in the Northern Territory News, and I believe transmitted on ABC radio as well, that a minister of his government has tape recorded interviews without the interviewees' consent?

knowledge? Can he confirm whether the allegation is correct?

ANSWER

This again is like the mishmash of allegations that have been conveyed in the media and by the executive of the Australian Journalists Association that I have seen in the last couple of days. I would hasten to point out that I was not in Darwin on Friday and did not have the pleasure of seeing Mr Vine on television. Certainly, no minister of my government records conversations of people without their prior permission. I know of only one instance where people's conversations have been recorded and that was in the normal course of events at a meeting. It is common practice for tape recorders to be used by journalists at meetings and at press conferences. This was a meeting between the Treasurer and the Save Mindil Committee. The tape recording was made with the approval of the committee as the many matters that were canvassed required that a transcript or record of the proceedings be kept.

I think it is a shame that this whole matter of Mr Vine's resignation or suspension has got out of hand because, after all, Mr Vine has a career to pursue. Perhaps I could read to the House his letter of resignation. I might say that I did not lightly take the decision to suspend Mr Vine or rather recommend Mr Vine's suspension to the Public Service Commissioner. Mr Vine's family is known to me and it was a very serious step for me to recommend to the Public Service Commissioner his suspension. Mr Vine wrote a letter of resignation to the Director-General on 2 March:

*This may come as a surprise but I think I should resign my position as Director, Office of Information, to take effect from 16 March. I realise that after only a fortnight in the job this may appear premature but I do not think that I am cut out for the role you see in your Director of Information. My life has always been involved in writing and I had hoped that the role here would be a journalistic one. Because of the isolation and high cost of getting here, is there any way please you can consider paying my return costs to Melbourne? Thank you very much for your past courtesy, with every good wish.*

377 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Could the honourable minister explain what steps are being taken to provide regular visits to Northern Territory medical centres by specialists such as orthopaedic surgeons and orthodontists?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory Medical Service provides medical specialists at Alice Springs and Darwin hospitals. These hospitals provide a regular schedule of visits to outlying areas such as hospitals at Nhulunbuy, Tennant Creek and Katherine, and specialists do go to more remote areas from time to time. The particular areas of medicine that are covered by these specialists are anaesthesia, dermatology, general survey, general medicine, obstetrics and gynaecology, ophthalmology, pediatrics and psychiatry.

Unfortunately, there is no specialist orthopaedic surgeon in the Northern Territory at the moment and such work is done by general practitioners and surgeons. In some cases, patients are transferred south to see specialists down there. It is planned that in the not too distant future the department will be recruiting a specialist orthopaedic surgeon to be based in Darwin.

So far as orthodontists are concerned, we have discussed this matter many times in the House and the position is very much the same. It is not a matter of restrictions on finance but one of the physical capacity of the Northern Territory Medical Service to recruit a person from anywhere in the world to practise and carry out his profession within a government instrumentality. The reality is that there are very few orthodontists working in medical services in Australia. The majority opt to become private practitioners and receive the rewards of private practice. We have open to us now a new option that has not been available before and that is to recruit public service people who are not British subjects. The department is looking to America to see if we can recruit people there to fill the positions that we have available. I can assure the honourable member that there is absolutely no intention on my part or that of the department to let the matter lie. We will pursue it until we have recruited the people, however long it takes.

378 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

Will the minister cease the practice of tape recording interviewees without their knowledge?

ANSWER

The only time I have ever used a tape recording at a meeting in my office was with a group of citizens concerned about the school bus service. I have never used a tape recorder in any other circumstances.

379 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

How many unoccupied government-owned, residential demountables remain to be disposed of?

ANSWER

A total of 188 demountables have been transferred from the Housing Commission. 89 of these have been transferred to other departments; 51 have been provisionally allocated to the Territory Development Corporation; 28 are currently being inspected by various departments and instrumentalities, and 20 have been allocated for sale to the public. I understand that 262 residential demountables are still occupied by Housing Commission tenants and these will eventually be transferred to the Department of Transport and Works for disposal.

380 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Why was the head of the Office of Intergovernmental Relations dispatched last Thursday to the Office of Information to seek out sensitive files?

ANSWER

The head of the Office of Intergovernmental Relations is the third most senior public servant in my department. He was close to hand when it occurred to me that there would be documents such as cabinet submissions held in the Office of Information by the Director of Information and that it would be a prudent course, in view of the fact that Mr Vine had indicated his intention to "offer such pieces now and then", that this sort of information be retrieved from that office. In any event, I make this point quite clear - and I have sought advice on it from the people who should be able to give me advice - it is the prerogative of a senior official of a department to inspect files anywhere in his department and there is absolutely no harm done in that at all. For persons in the Office

of information to feel aggrieved by this seems to indicate that they are running some sort of principality of their own. We have heard a great deal about ethics in this whole debate - ethics that are not matched by any knowledge of the work ethic, in my opinion, and I would simply like to say that there will be no retraction of the right of senior officials of public service departments to inspect files and, indeed, to open government mail in government envelopes that is going through a government franking machine, if that is considered to be necessary.

381 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What is being done to control the invasion of mimosa weed on the Adelaide River flood plains south of the Marrakai Plains and east of the Adelaide River?

ANSWER

The primary industry division has let a two-year contract for control and eradication of this weed by spraying areas of mimosa adjacent to roads and crossings in the Adelaide River township, Tortilla Flats, Arnhem Highway, Marrakai Crossing and Batchelor regions.

382 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Obviously, mail from Mr Vine was intercepted and opened. My question is, was this mail opened by an officer of the Northern Territory Public Service and, if so, why was not the opened mail taken to a more senior officer of the public service rather than to the minister?

ANSWER

To be quite honest, Mr Speaker, I do not know in fact who opened the mail but it came to me through my deputy leader and I cannot think of any more senior person in the administration below me than the Treasurer and Minister for Lands and Housing. I have already indicated to the House this morning that the Director-General of my department was absent from the Northern Territory at the time this incident occurred and certainly it would have been much better, I believe, if the Director-General had been personally present and able to handle the situation. Nevertheless, in his absence certain steps had to be taken.

383 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Can the honourable minister inform me when the future of Dhupuma College will be decided and, if Dhupuma College closes this year, what arrangements will be made to assist the teaching and industrial staff in obtaining new positions of employment for the future of the Aboriginal students' education?

ANSWER

The principal concern I have in respect of Dhupuma is for the children - the point the honourable member mentioned last, and I am quite sure he did not consciously do that. In the event of Dhupuma having to be phased out - and I will touch on that in a moment - the students would be given the best possible placements commensurate with their circumstances. This would be either at the new Nhulunbuy High School or at Kormilda College or as appropriate to their level of education. The teaching staff would be redeployed to satisfactory teaching positions. A sufficient wind-down time would be given to industrial staff to ensure that there were no redundancies as a result of any decision which may occur in respect of the college.

I would think that from July we will probably undertake a study of Dhupuma College in terms of its physical capacity to remain an institution for education in the Northern Territory. I would love to see it continue and when I become minister responsible for the function, we will do everything we can to see that it is continued. There is, however, an economic reality about it. The building has reached the end of its present life. On that there is no doubt whatsoever. It then comes to the question whether we repair something that has gone beyond its normal economic life. That, of course, is squandering the taxpayers' money.

The only other alternative would be to rebuild another Dhupuma College and, of course, that again would seem to me a possible waste of taxpayers' money having regard to the building of a completely new multi-million dollar high school for Nhulunbuy which will allow the present area schools to very adequately serve the primary and high school requirements.

The only other question which would be left unanswered would be that of accommodation. We are well aware, from our experience in the Northern Territory, of the impact it has on Aboriginal children to be taken from one cultural or one geographic area in which their culture is located, and transported to another. This is to be avoided wherever possible.

It is a matter of regret that Dhupuma College has been allowed, due to fiscal restraints, to get into a state which has probably accelerated the end of its economic life. The problem is a vexed one, Mr Speaker, and the decisions that will be taken by government will no doubt be taken in consultation with the honourable member for Nhulunbuy and in consultation with the communities affected by any such decision. Whatever decision is made, it is either going to be a very hard decision or a very expensive one.

384 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

Can the Treasurer inform the House which ministerial officer handed him or his ministerial officer the documents relating to the Vine articles?

ANSWER

The honourable Leader of the Opposition is trying to put words into my mouth. He is saying "which ministerial officer". In his previous question to the Chief Minister he asked whether it was a public servant or otherwise who was handling these particular documents. It is interesting that we should have this question from the Leader of the Opposition who at previous time in this House has referred to government information of a confidential nature having come into his hands by falling off the back of a truck. I could use the same pathetic excuse, Mr Speaker, but I will not. To be perfectly honest, at the time the documents were presented to me I was so alarmed that such documents did exist and by the inferences I drew from them that I did not ask who, in fact, intercepted the mail and I do not know to this day which officer in our organisation intercepted and opened the mail.

385 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What is being planned for the cleared area of the former pine plantation on the Howard Springs road which is currently being used as a track for motor bikes?

ANSWER

I understand it is proposed by the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission, which has responsibility for that area of land, that eucalypts be

planted in the area. In relation to the use of the area by motor cycles, the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission cannot find any evidence of usage of the area by organised groups although there may be such usage from time to time by individuals.

386 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware that, having written the article on dress for the casinos, Mr Vine showed it to a senior press officer of the Chief Minister's Department who offered the comment to Mr Vine that it was a good article, likely to appear in the southern press and this would be desirable for the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I am aware that Mr Vine showed the article to my press officer. However, he did not show him the letter to which I have referred and I think it was not unreasonable for my press officer to assume that Mr Vine was putting the article out as Director of Information and it would be included in the work value that we could expect for his \$24,000 annual salary.

387 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to TREASURER

Who issued the demolition orders for the destruction and removal of houses in the 32-square-mile acquisition area and what is the cost of the Northern Territory government of this demolition work?

ANSWER

Demolition orders were issued by the manager of estates of the Housing Commission, following a meeting between myself and senior officers of the Housing Commission on 15 January at which meeting it was agreed that unserviceable dwellings would be demolished in the 32-square-mile area where they were vacant. The cost of upgrading some of these houses to cyclone standard - and the government should not, of course, be renting houses which are not to cyclone standard - is near or beyond the cost of replacing the houses. In these cases it was felt that, as the premises were vacant, they should be demolished. Four dwellings, some of them with out-buildings, were demolished. The cost to the Northern Territory government was approximately \$4,000. I point out that the Department of the Northern Territory itself, when it existed, had the houses marked as ready for demolition before we took them over on 1 July last year.

388 Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware that, when Mr Vine was initially interviewed, he mentioned to one of the interviewing people that he would wish to continue in some capacity with freelance work if he was recruited for the Northern Territory and he was not advised then that this would be impossible? Is the Chief Minister also aware that, upon his arrival in the Northern Territory, he also expressed this view to an officer of the Northern Territory Public Service and again was not told that it was contrary to public service regulations and that he could in no capacity freelance? In other words, he had no idea of the seriousness of his action in relation to this particular article nor of the implications placed on it by the Chief Minister.

ANSWER

I can only be aware of discussions that took place in front of me, unless I am informed by others. I have not been informed by any of the public servants who interviewed Mr Vine that is, Mr Peter Simon in the first instance and the two subsequent interviewers at some later stage - whether he asked them if it would be permissible for him to freelance. I would expect that an assistant public service commissioner would have sufficient knowledge to be able to inform him that it would not be permissible. In the case of the discussions with Mr Vine that took place in front of me in Melbourne, with the Solicitor-General and my press officer present, I can assure honourable members and you, Mr Speaker, that there was no mention of any possibility of freelancing. Mr Vine did not put any such request to me or to either of those other gentlemen in my presence, and I am authorised by the Solicitor-General to indicate that that is his recollection of the conversation as well.

389 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

If those blocks in the 32-square-mile acquisition area are to be leased, sold or otherwise disposed of in the future, why was not consideration given to leasing them with the dwellings on them, at greater advantage to the Northern Territory government and resources generally, having regard to the constructiveness and building ingenuity of the people who go to live in the rural area?

ANSWER

Unfortunately, the good intentions and ingenuity of people may sometimes result in poor dwellings remaining for many years, be it in the rural area of Darwin or elsewhere. In the opinion of the government engineers and building inspectors, the houses that were demolished were considered to be uneconomic to repair and were in a dangerous state. In the event of another cyclone, they could have injured persons or property in the vicinity. It would have cost the government almost as much to repair the houses as to replace them. Some of these houses were quite old and were partly damaged during the cyclone. Some of them required electrical work to be done and would have been a hazard if the government rented or sold them. I do not believe the government acted improperly at all. I approved the action so that these houses will not continue to deteriorate while the future of the land in question is determined.

390 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Apart from Mr Vine's appointment, which other positions in the Northern Territory Public Service has he, as Chief Minister, been personally involved in interviewing applicants?

ANSWER

I have been present at interviews of a number of people. For instance, I was present with the Director-General and other officers of the Northern Territory Public Service when candidates for the Office of Policy and Planning were interviewed. Indeed, I interviewed the Solicitor-General for appointment to the Northern Territory Public Service and also the Public Service Commissioner himself. At one stage, we had about 3 people in our public service and we just had to get things done. The niceties to which the Leader of the Opposition refers were not always practicable. Wherever it has been possible, there has always been an officer present. Indeed, it is difficult for me to recall any interview

discussions - and they have all been formal interviews - that I may have had with candidates for the Northern Territory Public Service where there has not been at least one senior official present and often more than one.



392 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

Can the Treasurer inform the Assembly when the public accounts for the December 1978 quarter will be published in the Gazette, according to the Financial Administration and Audit Act?

ANSWER

Within the last couple of days I have received from the Treasury Department a copy of the documents that the honourable Leader of the Opposition mentioned and have arranged to have talks with the Under-Treasurer on the presentation of those reports before authorising that they be printed in the Gazette. However, I expect that this will be done within a few days.

393 Mr HARRIS to TREASURER

Reference was made in 1977 by the Treasurer to the advantages of the Northern Territory changing its present financial year to end on 31 December each year. Would the Treasurer advise the Assembly of the government's attitude and intentions regarding such a change?

ANSWER

The question of changing the financial year for the Northern Territory is a complex one. There are a number of advantages and disadvantages some of which I have outlined earlier in the House. Among the advantages is the prospect that it would no longer be necessary to have a supply period at the start of each financial year since the amount of the Commonwealth's subvention for the Territory would be known at the time of the preparation of our budget. There could also be advantages in terms of the work program in the private sector. On the other hand, it is obvious that there would be some disadvantages and problems associated with such a changeover. There would be a need for various legislative changes and for a transitional fiscal year of either 6 or 18 months. It would be necessary to consider the implications for the private sector in such budgetary changes.

Before a decision is taken on the question it will be necessary to examine further the advantages and disadvantages and to this end I would want to have the benefit of at least one full budget cycle under the existing system before deciding whether the change is warranted. The matter, therefore, will be considered further by the government when we have had more experience with the operations of the present system.

394 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

My question concerns the operation of the Katherine Rural Education Centre management committee. Have any public meetings been held in regard to this committee, who are the members of the committee and what interests do they represent, and were they appointed or selected?

ANSWER

My understanding of the committee for the Katherine Rural Education Centre is that 4 were to be appointed from the urban area, 4 from the rural area with 1 representative of the Department of Education and, I assume, 1 representative of the Darwin Community College. As I understand it, it is only quite recently that applications have been called from the rural area. As you are aware, Sir, I am not at all happy with progress in relation to the Rural Education Centre and I think it is high time that I took a very active and personal interest in it. To

that end there will be a meeting in my office to which you are invited, Sir. I have also asked Dr Eedle and the liaison officer to the Northern Territory government, Mr Chard, to be there. I think it would probably be appropriate - and I hope the staff are listening - that we invite an appropriate person from the Darwin Community College and I wonder whether the honourable member for Arnhem might like to attend and, for that matter, any other member who has a particular interest in the Katherine Rural Education Centre, so that we can sit around in a non-party manner and at that level try to work out what we feel should be done. Following that, I undertake to go to Katherine probably next week and speak to the people down there personally to see what initiatives we can take to get the thing off the ground in the direction in which I think you, Sir, and I certainly want it to head.

395 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

Is it a fact that the Minister is currently negotiating with a private developer for the construction of a recreation centre at Marrara?

ANSWER

We are investigating a proposal by a private developer to build a sporting complex at Marrara. It is the subject of papers which are being prepared for a cabinet submission.

396 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is the Northern Territory government participating in the Australia-wide farm link in March and, if so, in what way? Does he know of any rural groups who are participating?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government has agreed to participate in Operation Farm Link and will assist in the distribution of 4,000 copies of the magazine which will arrive very soon. Information on the \$5,000 national essay competition for school children is currently being distributed to Northern Territory schools. I am advised that the Northern Farmers Association has also offered support and is considering a number of activities for later in the year after the wet season concludes. Operation Farm Link has been of interest to me personally as a vehicle for the distribution of information between city and country dwellers. I think it is a very admirable effort on the part of the editor and the management of that particular newspaper.

397 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Why and to what extent does the Office of Information have access to confidential cabinet papers?

ANSWER

I would have thought that it would have been obvious to the Leader of the Opposition why the Office of Information would have access to cabinet papers. Cabinet submissions are prepared by all departments and statutory authorities to obtain policy and logistical approval for the actions of various departments. The arm of the Northern Territory government which has the duty to endeavour to explain to the people of the Northern Territory what the government is doing is the Office of Information in the Chief Minister's Department. If the Office of Information is unable to have access to cabinet documents and submissions, obviously it would be

unable to assess the material on which cabinet decisions have been made and thus explain the rationale behind initiatives to the people of the Northern Territory. All public servants are under a duty of confidentiality in respect of most of the material that comes before them and this also applies to officers of the Office of Information. There seems to be nothing extraordinary at all in the concept of trusting these officers with such sensitive papers. Indeed, it was the degree of possible breach of that trust that surprised me in the recent incident.

398 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to TREASURER

I ask this question on behalf of the honourable member for Elsey and myself: What is the intention of the government for the use of the special purpose lease occupied by William Angliss at the 10-mile?

ANSWER

I ask that the question be placed on notice. I do not have the specific information on the matter at the moment but I will certainly obtain it.

399 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

My question concerns a matter that is of vital concern to my electorate. What can the minister tell the House about the situation surrounding the statement made by Mr Eddie Connellan in yesterday's press about the future operations of Connair?

ANSWER

No one was more surprised than I was at the content of that particular article. I understand that no approaches have been made to either the federal government or the Northern Territory government on the proposal contained in the article and we have sent a telegram to Mr Connellan asking him for further information. Of course, we cannot substantiate what was said in that article but I think it would be a form of criticism to act in that manner without discussions with the government. There was also a criticism of the government in that article for its inability to provide facilities at Ayers Rock. The picture there is largely known to members of the Assembly. The airstrip at Ayers Rock itself is unlikely to be upgraded; it is unlikely to receive the approval of the federal or the Northern Territory authorities because we are constructing another airstrip which is likely to come up for tender in 1979-80. I think the whole thing could be a bit of a smokescreen.

The other aspect I would like to draw to your attention, Sir, is that the article refers to the use of the Fokker F27 being deferred for a time. We understand from Department of Transport officers that the Fokker, although suitable for use on bush strips or earth strips, has the capability of ruining those strips inside a couple of landings and our information is that it would probably be unsuitable anyway.

400 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it true that there might be a delay in the commencement of the rehabilitation pilot study at Darwin Hospital because of a shortage in the Northern Territory of occupational therapists and physiotherapists? Is the shortage partly due to the fact that Northern Territory Public Service rates of pay for occupational therapists and physiotherapists are substantially below equivalent rates in other states and, if so, what action is being planned to overcome this problem?

ANSWER

I am not quite sure whether the honourable member is asking a question and making a statement of fact. I think we have discussed many times in the House the problem in recruiting specialists and I am sure occupational therapists and physiotherapists fit into that particular category. I think it is unacceptable, if it is the case, that we go without these people because our salary rates are not comparable with the rates paid elsewhere in Australia. I will look into that matter myself and report back to the House at the next opportunity.

401. Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT and WORKS

I ask this question also on behalf of the honourable member for Elsey. It relates to the previous question I asked of the honourable Minister for Lands and Housing.

If William Angliss relinquished the use of the special purpose lease at the 1-mile as an export abattoirs, would they lose the export quota? I understand they have not earned since 1973.

ANSWER

The allocation of quotas, as I think you are aware, Mr Speaker, is the responsibility of the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation. That makes the question slightly hypothetical. However, the information I do have may be of some interest. In 1978 special quotas for northern meatworks totalled around 13,000 tonnes and I am advised that the 1979 special quotas have not yet been allocated by the AMLC. In any case the AMLC has foreshadowed the end of special quotas following the upgrading of Wyndham port and the AMLC considers that, once northern meatworks have had an adequate opportunity to service other markets, there will be no reason to continue those special quotas. They say that Northern Exporters will be eligible to earn normal quotas in the same way as other exporters. However, it makes really no difference where an abattoir is because my understanding is that quotas are allocated to exporters and not to meatworks.

402. Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is it his intention to establish a city morgue or will postmortems continue to be carried out by pathologists attached to the Department of Health?

ANSWER

My understanding is that the establishment of a city morgue would be in the jurisdiction of the Attorney-General. I ask that the question be re-directed to him.

403. Mr OLIVER to CHIEF MINISTER

Would the Chief Minister tell me what is the government's intention in providing an aerodrome at the Yulara Village site?

ANSWER

This matter seems to be rather topical because the Minister for Industrial Development touched on it in his answer to an earlier question. Some weeks ago, when I was in Alice Springs, with the authority of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission which is responsible for the Yulara Tourist

Village Report, I indicated that tenders would probably be called in July-August of this year for the construction of a new airstrip at the Yulara Tourist Village which will be capable of accommodating Fokker Friendship aircraft. I might mention that notice of this was conveyed to Connair some weeks ago and indeed a public announcement was made on the radio in Alice Springs.

402 Mrs LAWRIE to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

I redirect my question concerning the city morgue.

ANSWER

I do not know what the intentions are in respect of the establishment of a city morgue. I would have to ask that that question be placed on notice. I really do not think the Department of Law would be attempting to expand its activities into this area. We notice that departments do attempt to expand their areas of activity but I feel sure the Solicitor-General and myself would not be anxious to go into the cadaver business. If we can, we will pass the responsibility back to the Department of Health. However, I know the question is a serious one and I will have it investigated seriously. I will attempt to provide the honourable member for Night-cliff with a written response in the course of the next few weeks.

404 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I refer to the recent problems relating to lack of and late arrival of furnishings and library materials for newly built schools in the Territory. Has the matter been drawn to the attention of the minister? If so, will the minister take steps to ensure that, in future, these very essential goods are ordered and delivered to new schools before occupation by students and staff?

ANSWER

I am unaware of any delay in the delivery of library books to new schools. There is a reduced allocation to library services in schools this financial year but new schools are certainly not affected by this reduction. The honourable member is probably aware of the difficulty apparently experienced in Alice Springs by the new high school at Sadadeen. The modus operandi of the new system will be different to what the old system was. The old system was subject to random and arbitrary variations of the amount of money available for fixtures and fittings. The Sadadeen saga was a very sad one indeed. The amount of money requested by the department as being appropriate for fixtures and fittings was varied about 3 times. A separate department was involved in the delivery of those goods and that is Sydney-based - the Department of Administrative Services. Given the communication system with the south, it is quite obvious that we must have extensive and frustrating delays. Under a system of Northern Territory government administration, where the whole of the administration is in the same locality, I cannot see such problems arising in the future at all.

405 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is he aware that, because of the shortage of pathologists at Darwin Hospital, unreasonable delays sometimes occur in the conducting of post mortems and this delays funerals? If he is aware of this, will he undertake to recruit sufficient pathologists to enable the post mortems to be done reasonably quickly and would he undertake, as Minister for Health when he assumes that responsibility, to accord the conducting of such post mortems the highest priority?

ANSWER

It becomes clear why the honourable member was pursuing the issue of a city morgue. I was not being facetious when I redirected the question because the function of a city morgue is normally a prerogative of the police department. It has become difficult to get post mortems done in the Darwin Hospital and this could be holding up funerals. I am not aware of any situation where this has happened in Darwin but I would welcome advice at any time if anyone is being disadvantaged by such a situation. I have been aware of this situation arising in Alice Springs in the past. When I raised it with the people responsible, the situation was remedied quickly. I do not think the department or the coroner's court has ever had the intention of putting people at a disadvantage by holding up post mortems. Often, the necessity for post mortems seems to come in ebbs and tides. There seems to be a crisis for a time and then there is a quiet period. In one centre, we had to hire miscellaneous cold room space until the doctor could get through the backlog of post mortems. I am quite happy to take the matter up with the department and will let the honourable member know what progress has been made.

405 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will he confirm that the recently completed environment, planning and coastal management study recommended that the design for the ramp built near the Water Ski Club at Vesteys Beach should allow for the passage of sand through the structure by incorporating large concrete culverts in the ramp? Will the minister explain why the ramp was built before the study was completed with the result that such a passage of sand has not been provided for and there is now a large build up of sand on the southern side and a consequent erosion of sand on the northern side of that ramp? What action will be taken to overcome this problem?

ANSWER

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

407 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has consideration been given by the Northern Territory government to introducing a limited bus service for old-age pensioners in the Darwin area?

ANSWER

Consideration has not been given to providing that sort of service. Our main consideration with the bus service is to keep the operating deficit at a certain level. I think the deficit this year will be \$1.25m and that is fairly alarming. However, if a need is expressed and there are facts to support it, we will keep looking at what extension of the bus service will have to be made.

408 Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

How many staff are attached to the Office of Information, and are these staff subjected to any special security procedures?

ANSWER

I do not know exactly how many staff are attached to the Office of Information. I think it is in the order of half a dozen but it might be as many as 8 people. I am not really aware of what security procedures

are taken in the public service to vet people. My only knowledge of public service procedures is that, shortly after I left school, I joined the public service for a short time and I had to swear an oath that I would be loyal to our Sovereign Lady the Queen and keep everything I saw fairly hush hush. I imagine that situation still prevails.

409 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I have heard there are plans to build a primary school at Humpty Doo. In view of this has consideration been given to make the Howard Springs School an area school?

ANSWER

There is proposed to be a new area school at Humpty Doo. It is my understanding that the school proposal is now on the preliminary design list for 1979-80. The school will initially cater for pre-school, primary and junior secondary and, hopefully, by about 1985 it should be able to provide the normal extension of high school services. I would imagine that would mean that the Howard Springs School would become a single school in its own right but I am not sure whether it would be a primary or high school. I will provide further information to the honourable member later.

410 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he assure the House that no member of his personal staff interfered with the envelope containing Mr Vine's article?

ANSWER

I am unaware of the identity of the person who opened the envelope. I am therefore not in a position to give any such assurance to the House. Even if I was aware of the identity of the person, I would certainly not disclose his identity publicly or to honourable members opposite as I believe that person would then become the subject of victimisation and discrimination.

411 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

From what areas does the topsoil for Housing Commission homes in the urban area come? In keeping with the Northern Territory government's environmental protection policy, is topsoil from further out in the rural areas carted to fill in holes from which the first lot has been removed and, if so, at what distance from Darwin will these holes not be filled in, and when will the practice cease?

ANSWER

There are locations in what we know as the 32-square-mile area from which both government and industry extract topsoil to bring into the city proper. I think it is fair comment to say that by carting topsoil from the 32-square-mile area to use as fill in places such as Anula and Wulagi, we are doing exactly what the honourable member said. We are filling up areas that were excavated some 10 to 15 years ago by people living in the Darwin city area. The answer to the problem is for us to identify areas for the removal of topsoil and sand that are not likely to be used for future town development or cause any future embarrassment to planners or future residents.

412 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it his intention - and if so, when - to introduce legislation to control the use of antibiotics in stockfeeds?

ANSWER

The matter the honourable member refers to is on a list of proposed legislation but whether it will come up between now and 1989, I could not offer her any assurance at all.

413 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

When does he anticipate that it will be his turn to take over ministerial responsibilities for the Electricity Commission, in view of the fact that the commission has already had 3 other ministers in the last 12 months?

ANSWER

I would be unable to answer that question.

414 Mr ROBERTSON: Mr Speaker, by your leave, I think I may have misled the honourable member for Tiwi in my answer to her question in relation to the Humpty Doo School. I think I said the school would become a high school. What it will do, in effect, is split into two; in 1985 it will become a separate primary school and a separate high school. The proposed location of the school - the other part of the question which I think I missed - is on the Arnhem Highway, about 3 miles from its junction with the Stuart Highway. That is the position: initially, it will be an area school through to junior secondary and by about 1985, it is hoped to have both a high school and a primary school functioning on the same location with perhaps some shared facilities.



415 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it true that the Executive Council approved regulations yesterday for the declaration of Sir Edward Pellew group of islands as a town area?

ANSWER

The proceedings of the Executive Council are of a secret nature. One is required to swear an oath when one is sworn in as an executive councillor. The honourable member for Arnhem would be aware of the provisions of that oath because it is contained in a schedule to the Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act. I cannot remember the exact terms of the oath offhand but I am pretty sure that it precludes me from saying directly what took place at the Executive Council yesterday, certainly not without the leave of the Administrator. All I can say is that one should look in the Northern Territory Government Gazette for something of that nature. I would doubt that anything would be in the Gazette relating to yesterday's meeting.

416 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What regard will be paid by the Northern Territory government after 1 July 1979 to the encouragement of the full development of gifted children within our Northern Territory school system and also with regard to the necessity perhaps of their having to receive schooling down south?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government is concerned to provide the best education it possibly can across the whole spectrum of children and I do not think we should be particularly singling out gifted children at the expense of any others. However, the Northern Territory division of the Department of Education has been one of the leaders in Australia in the field of making adequate provision for gifted children. I believe there are only gifted children's programs in Queensland and South Australia to date; The Queensland program has only just started and the South Australian program started in 1977.

At the beginning of the school year in 1977, the Northern Territory division of the department commenced a program of providing special advisers for gifted children throughout the Northern Territory. This program now operates in respect of 13 primary and high schools in the Northern Territory and serves 200 identified gifted children. This is done by way of special advisers being made available to the school in such a manner as to prevent interference in the normal school activities. The Northern Territory government will continue the current program of special tuitional guidance to gifted children in the Northern Territory. It would not be our intention, nor would we consider it desirable, to export our better children. For that reason the current programs, which are the most modern in Australia, will be developed. We would not be looking to subsidising the export of our talent.

417 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

I ask this question on the supposition that the Chief Minister can use his discretion to disclose proceedings of cabinet meetings if he wishes to do so. When did the Cabinet make its decision that the Sir Edward Pellew group of islands would be declared a town area?

ANSWER

Again I am bound by the secrecy provisions that traditionally attach to Cabinet. I do not think there is anything in law that says I may not say what goes on in Cabinet but I have received lectures this week from the honourable Leader of the Opposition and many of the pedagogues who inhabit the nether regions with him. The position is constitutionally quite clearly established that I am not in a position to tell this House, or anyone outside my cabinet colleagues, what went on in Cabinet other than such decisions as Cabinet chooses to release. I am quite sure that if Cabinet had made such a decision as the honourable member for Arnhem refers to, it would have been snapped up in the press.

418 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Will he assure the orderlies in the Alice Springs Hospital that they will not be disadvantaged, in a financial sense, by their transfer over to St John Ambulance?

ANSWER

The honourable member raises a point that I am not quite sure is, in fact, a reality. The honourable member in his question assumes that the orderlies at the Alice Springs Hospital will transfer automatically to the St John Ambulance Brigade in Alice Springs which is currently recruiting staff for the commencement of its operations later this year. My understanding of the situation is that St John Ambulance will be recruiting qualified people to undertake the duties that the ambulance brigade requires from time to time and that, if opportunities are there for orderlies to transfer, then they would probably be most acceptable. But in the event of the orderlies not being able to be transferred, as I understand it, they would just continue their normal orderly duties.

I might make the point that I think that in most of our hospitals we have had a situation where orderlies and other people in the hospitals have been carrying out ambulance driving duties over many years for the benefit of the community and the hospital. On many occasions these people have not been as qualified as they themselves would have wished. I think it should be noted that all of us in the community owe these orderlies a great deal of thanks for what they have done. But I do not think that implies that the orderlies will automatically transfer to the St John Ambulance Brigade at either a higher or lower level. In fact, there is no guarantee that they will transfer at all. They may possibly continue normal orderly duties in the hospital.

419 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

In view of the answer given to a previous question I asked relating to the Darwin Hospital, it is obvious there will be many buildings unoccupied after Casuarina Hospital opens. My question is, could the minister inform me what will happen to these excess buildings when the Casuarina Hospital does, in fact, open?

ANSWER

I would like to make the point that this question relates in part to questions that have been asked in the House earlier about the future of the hospital and what functions the hospital will serve in the future. The short answer is that the department is preparing a cabinet submission for consideration concerning the complete future requirements and needs of the Darwin Hospital and I would imagine the future of the buildings.

420 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to TREASURER

Could he use his good efforts to ensure that before the Place Names Committee names roads in the rural area, it publicises its intentions and invites comment from the people who live in the area?

ANSWER

The naming of roads and streets in all areas of the Northern Territory is the responsibility of the Administrator acting with the advice of his council. What is put before the Administrator is the advice of a group called the Place Names Committee. This group should have representatives from various areas in the Territory. At present, there are a few vacancies on the committee and advertisements are in the press seeking nominations to fill those vacancies. It is not really practical to have suggestions by the Place Names Committee advertised before they go to the Administrator because it would create a somewhat unnecessary delay. However, if the honourable member for Tiwi or any of her constituents wishes to put forward a series of suggestions or perhaps even a principle on which the streets in her area should be named, I would certainly be glad to receive such representations and pass them on the Place Names Committee for its consideration.

421 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is it a fact that 6 employees at Mount Wells battery have received letters advising them that they must relinquish prospecting leases which they presently hold in the area or lose their jobs at Mount Wells? If this is a fact, is it intended that similar action will be taken with regard to other public servants who hold prospecting leases?

ANSWER

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

422 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The minister will be aware that about half a dozen applications were received following the advertising by his department on 22 November last year of an A9 position based in Tennant Creek. Will he inform the Assembly why he intervened to reject all the applicants and have the position re-advertised on 22 February this year? Can he also inform the Assembly whether he took this action after discussing the position with the Minister for Mines and Energy?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, you will probably ask me to withdraw this but that is a blatant lie. I withdraw it, but there is no other way that I can put it forcefully enough. That is the most mischievous piece of falsehood I have ever heard in my life. I categorically deny that I interfered in any public service position whatsoever. It can be confirmed with the permanent head of my department that I am so concerned to keep out of matters of the public service, particularly appointments, that I have constantly refused to even meet applicants even when invited to do so by senior officers. I am cautious and religious about avoiding any inference of contact with the public service whatsoever in terms of employment. I totally reject the allegation.

423 Mr OLIVER to TREASURER

When will 2 shopping sites in Alice Springs, one on Head Street and one on the east side, be put on the market?

ANSWER

The commercial centre site on Head Street, Alice Springs, was put to auction formally before self-government. A reserve price of \$80,000 was set. This was a seemingly ridiculous thing to do because the value of the land was about \$30,000. Obviously, it did not attract any bids. After self-government, I directed that the department reset the reserve price on the block and reissue it on offer to the public at market valuation or perhaps a small percentage below market valuation. I am informed that the block will be put up at the next land auction in Alice Springs which is set for mid-April.

On the east side, the shopping centre lots which are currently marked on the plan as lots 4625 and 4626 have now been proposed as residential land and other land put forward as being more suitable for a commercial centre in that subdivision. These are lots 4631 and 4632. As this action involves a change to the Alice Springs Town Plan, it is not proposed to put these lots up for sale at that auction in April.

424 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

In consideration of the fact that representatives of the Northern Territory government told the Aboriginal people at Borroloola on Monday of this week of the Cabinet's decision, will the Chief Minister advise me if the government had any discussions with the Aboriginal people at Borroloola prior to this week to advise them that the government was considering such an action?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government is certainly considering the proclamation of a town area to enable a port facility to be established in the islands to the north of Borroloola in the Gulf of Carpentaria, called the Sir Edward Pellew group. As a matter of fact, 2 weeks ago I think officers of the Department of Law and the Aboriginal liaison unit informed the solicitors for the Northern Land Council and the Borroloola community of this fact. Cabinet has not considered the question as yet and the matter is one that will probably be considered in the near future.

The whole position at McArthur River is one that is being negotiated over quite a long time. There is the matter of the corridor across the town common. There is a request by the Aboriginal people that Mount Isa Mines sell Bing Bong Station to them and certainly, Mr Speaker, we have indicated to the Aboriginal community at Borroloola that if Mount Isa Mines is willing to sell Bing Bong Station or indeed any of the stations down there for the purposes of a station to the Aboriginal people in the area, then we have absolutely no objection. The whole thing, of course, is tied up with the development of the large mining project at McArthur River which is a silver-lead-zinc deposit, I understand, and a great deal more money has now to be spent. I think \$18m or \$24m have been spent so far in proving the ore bodies and doing trial processes to see how the ore can be recovered and Mount Isa Mines is now at a crossroads position. It really needs to expend a great deal more money and perhaps bring a part of the field into production, a part where there is an ore body that is apparently richer than the larger part of it. Mount Isa Mines is obviously looking for some security of tenure and some assurance that it will be able to transport the ore from the area of the mine to a port in the Sir Edward Pellew group of islands and these negotiations have all been to that end.

Mr Speaker, you and other honourable members of this House would appreciate that a mine which would be the genesis of a port in that area would be a great asset for the Northern Territory because it would mean that our fishing industry in the Gulf would be able to compete on a much better footing with Queensland which has a land-based port facility at Karumba on the Norman River to which many prawning vessels resort and at which there are a number of fish and prawn processing facilities. The establishment of a port in the McArthur River region with access by road to the eastern states and South Australia would, I believe, be a great boost to the fishing industry and would also give incentive to the pastoral industry in the area which at the present time, I understand, has no easy access for transshipment of live cattle to anywhere outside the area other than by trucking them to the railhead at either Mount Isa or Alice Springs. So, Mr Speaker, you and I think all honourable members can see that the provision of a port in that region of the Northern Territory is a most desirable objective and one that the Northern Territory government will pursue.

425 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

When will a decision be made on the submission from Nabalco Oval Management Committee requesting financial assistance to complete the newly-formed sports oval project?

ANSWER

I believe the application will be finalised shortly.

426 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for HEALTH

At present, certain drugs may be purchased over the counter for animal use only. Will legislation be introduced to make it necessary for prescriptions to be issued for antibiotics, steroids and similar drugs?

ANSWER

I assume he is referring to drugs that are prescribed or required by veterinary scientists in the normal course of their profession. My understanding is that the Australian states and the Northern Territory do have an agreement on the method of prescription of drugs for animals. I am not aware of the actual process in the Northern Territory but I will endeavour to find out and advise the House at a later time.

427 Mr COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to the meeting that the honourable Chief Minister just referred to. Is he aware that the senior government officer present at that meeting requested the people there not to advise the Aboriginal people at Borroloola of the government's decision until the NT government officers themselves advised the people of that decision on Monday and that the reply he received was that the NLC could not agree to such a request?

ANSWER

I am sure all honourable members have found the honourable member for Arnhem's statement interesting. It was a statement not a question.

428 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

I understand that the Mexican government has invited nations participating in the celebration of the International Year of the Child to send a delegation of children to Acapulco in April for an international sand

modelling contest. Will Northern Territory children be given the opportunity to participate.

ANSWER

I can confirm that an invitation has been made to children in Australia to participate. The Mexican government has invited 6 children from this country as their guests and the sand modelling contest will be a feature of that visit. Children from 5 Australian states and the Northern Territory have the opportunity to represent Australia. Officers of my department are negotiating with representatives of the 2 commercial organisations, TAA and Coca Cola Ltd, who are sponsoring the local competitions concerning arrangements for the Territory contest which will be held in Darwin towards the end of this month. The Australia deputation will go to Acapulco to compete late in April of this year. As the position for the Territory representative was only finalised 48 hours ago, further details of the competition will be announced through the media.

429 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he aware of a report circulating in his department on beach front usage in Darwin? It was completed, I understand, around July last year. Is it true that the report recommends against any development on Mindil Beach?

ANSWER

The only report that I know of that could be circulating in the department is the foreshore management study for which my colleague, the Minister for Lands, has the administration. I am not sure if that recommendation is contained in it or not.

430 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Does the government have any plans to build a public swimming pool in the rural area?

ANSWER

There are certainly no such plans. It is normal, of course, for the government to assist in the construction of swimming pools in any area. This is usually done in conjunction with local government which, of course, means rates and that means loan rates. If the honourable member is proposing the establishment of local government for her area so that we may subsidise a \$700,000 swimming pool, dollar for dollar, I would like to hear from her.

431 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

Again, can he advise the House if any decision has been made on the future use of Carpentaria College?

ANSWER

This long saga is coming near to an end, fortunately. It has taken us a long time to negotiate this with the Commonwealth - not so much to vest the land of Carpentaria College, as that was done with self-government, but vest the debts and transfer the mortgage across to the Northern Territory. This has only recently been done, a matter of weeks ago. At the moment the government is considering various options as to what future use Carpentaria College should be put to and I would hope that a decision can be made within a couple of weeks.

432 Mrs O'NEIL to TREASURER

This question also relates to another long saga. Can he tell us what progress has been made towards the transfer of certain Australian National Railways properties to the Northern Territory government? I refer, of course, particularly to the houses at Parap.

ANSWER

It is with some disappointment that I report to the House that at this stage we have not obtained from the Australian National Railways a transfer of the ownership of the properties in Parap which are causing the government some concern. I have asked the Housing Commission to approach the Australian National Railways immediately at least to get permission to clean up the area and bulldoze the sets of floorboards that are standing at the present time and are quite an eyesore, being on the Stuart Highway. I have also given policy directions on a new line for negotiations for the actual sale of the assets to the Northern Territory. I hope, in the not too distant future, to be able to announce that arrangements have been made with ANR for us to take over the assets on the land, because the land itself already belongs to the Northern Territory, and also provide details of proposals for redevelopment of this area.

433 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware that people in the rural areas of Darwin have no security of water supply and when the water for a variety of reasons ceases to flow and they ring the office, they are advised that no guarantee can be given of their water supply continuing? If he is aware of this, can he advise if his department has taken any action?

ANSWER

I was not aware of the exact nature of the problem as the honourable member for Nightcliff has described it. Certainly, it probably leads back to her problem with the answering service. This is a problem which needs further examination. I am not so sure that what we are doing is exactly the best thing but we are looking at it at present.

434 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What is being done to control the cassia-type weed which is growing in high hedges on either side of the Arnhem Highway just west of the South Alligator River?

ANSWER

Not too many people appreciate just how serious the weed problem is in the Northern Territory, particularly in the Top End. In recent months, we have reclassified many of the weeds and we propose to improve the legislation as soon as we are able. The department is currently working on a report to me as to the best way to go about this. Members may have already read the feral animals report which states that the weeds section of the primary industry division needs livening up. I will be able to reply to the honourable member more adequately when we have examined these problems.

#### ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

435 Mr TUXWORTH: Yesterday, the honourable member for Fannie Bay asked a question concerning the shortage of physiotherapists and occupational therapists in Darwin. She asked whether the delay in appointing people was because the rates of pay being offered are substantially less than

those in other places in Australia. After intensive negotiations between the various Commonwealth and Northern Territory organisations involved, a pilot project has been decided on for ward 2 of the Darwin Hospital, equipment has been ordered for which delivery is now taking place and staff sought. There has been a particularly good response to the advertisements for occupational therapists and physiotherapists and it is hoped appointments will be made very soon. In general terms, the rates of pay compare satisfactorily with most of the states although not with Western Australia and the Department of Repatriation.

- 436 Mr TUXWORTH: The honourable member for Nightcliff asked whether funerals were being delayed by the conducting of postmortems at the Darwin Hospital. The department is aware that postmortem requirements have caused unavoidable delays to funeral arrangements from time to time. As the member for Nightcliff rightly implied, Darwin Hospital has been experiencing difficulties in recruiting pathologists. I would like to assure the honourable member that the matter is being taken very seriously and that recruitment to the vacant position is now in an advanced stage. As soon as I have confirmation of an appointment, I will advise the honourable member myself.



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