

PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

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

Numerical references are to Question Paper page numbers.

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

Audit for Northern Territory Government

Mr ISAACS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Did the Treasurer note that the Prime Minister, in his statement on the review of Commonwealth government functions, indicated that the Commonwealth Auditor-General will no longer carry out audits for the Northern Territory government? What steps are being taken to ensure that appropriate audit functions will continue to be maintained?

Question re-directed to CHIEF MINISTER

ANSWER

It was thought inappropriate that the function of Auditor-General should be the responsibility of the Treasurer and, for that reason, I hold administrative responsibility for the function of Auditor-General although, of course, that gentleman operates quite independently other than for administrative support. The remarks of the Prime Minister in his statement were noted. A paper has been prepared for the consideration of Cabinet by officers of my department relating to the total effect on the Territory - good, bad or indifferent - of the various facts germane to the Territory in the statement made by the Prime Minister in the federal parliament some weeks ago. Only last night, I was able to read that document and approved it for submission to Cabinet. Cabinet will consider what steps we should take in relation to either the establishment of an Auditor-General's unit in the Northern Territory or perhaps calling for tenders from firms of chartered accountants for the work of the Auditor-General to be carried out. These are matters which will no doubt be considered by Cabinet in terms of the options put forward to it, but it is too early at this stage to say what decision is likely to be made.

Bag Limit for Territory Fishermen

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

I understand that a number of problems are being experienced with the bag limit that has been imposed on Territory fishermen. Are problems being experienced and, if so, is anything being done by the government to counter these problems?

ANSWER

I have had no reports about problems with the bag limit. Indeed, I have heard no fish stories recently at all. I believe that the present management regime is: no re-issue of surrendered or cancelled fishing licences, restriction on the transfer of commercial licences except for reasons of hardship, injury or ill-health, a 4-month closed season for commercial fishing extending from 1 October to 31 January, a restriction on the maximum net length to be used by commercial fishermen to 1,500 metres, the development of alternative fisheries to provide an outlet for excess fishing effort is being encouraged and, of course, there is the bag limit. I would say that there is some doubt in my mind as to the operation of all these measures in conserving this natural resource which is so important to Territorians. In due course, I believe that the government will take the step of initiating an inquiry into the barramundi fishery over and above the other work that is being carried out by the department. We will look at ways and means of further ensuring the conservation of this remarkable fishery.

Carpentaria College Site

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

At the last Assembly sittings, he indicated that a development plan would be prepared for Carpentaria College and placed on public display. Can he advise what stage this development plan has reached?

ANSWER

Yesterday morning, I saw for the first time the development plans in sketch form. I understand that they have now been lodged with the Planning Authority. I would imagine that, over the next week, they will become available for public scrutiny if the full plans are available. All I saw yesterday was a conceptual layout which looked very interesting and would probably result in a very useful facility for that area.

Instant Money Game

Mr D.W. COLLINS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is the South Australian-based instant money game legal in the Territory and, if so, what revenue does the Territory gain from its operation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the instant money game, which is available in Alice Springs and Darwin at least, is legal in the Territory. The game is subject to an agreement between the Northern Territory government and the South Australian government. Under this agreement, the Territory retains a portion of the South Australian government's commission on sales of the game. Revenue obtained from this source is expected to be about \$50,000 by the end of the current financial year. It is interesting to place the instant money game into context with other games which attract increasing patronage from the public in the Territory and from which the Territory government derives revenue, even though we have not legislated for these financial arrangements with the states. Actual expenditure on interstate lotteries in 1979-80 totalled about \$2.195m from which the Territory obtained \$363,575 in commission. Projections on expenditure this financial year indicate a total expenditure of \$2.8m on interstate lotteries such as Tattslotto, NSW lotto and instant money, bringing an estimated \$450,000 to the Territory government. It is significant that the projected figures for this financial year represent a 27% increase in expenditure over the previous year. A further 46% increase in revenue is projected for 1981-82. The anticipated expenditure on interstate lotteries in 1981-82 is expected to be \$4.1m, returning an estimated \$840,000 to the Northern Territory in commissions. It would seem that at least some Territorians do have spare cash to have a flutter from time to time in gambling even outside of casinos.

Kakadu National Park

Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise to what extent the management, direction and control of Kakadu National Park have been transferred to the Northern Territory as a result of the federal government review of government functions?

ANSWER

No.

Cement Manufacture from Coral at Gunn Point

Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

Are tests being carried out on coral reefs off Gunn Point to evaluate their possible use for cement manufacture? If so, by whom are the tests being carried out and what is the government's attitude to the possible destruction of this valuable biological resource?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any such tests. It may be helpful if the member for Fannie Bay refers the question to my colleague, the Minister for Mines and Energy, who may know something of this matter. It certainly has not come within

my purview although the Conservation Commission may be aware of it. I can seek information if my colleague knows nothing of it.

Staffing Dispute - 14-Mile Fire Station

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is he at liberty to tell me the results of the meeting between the Northern Territory Fire Brigade staff and Deputy Public Service Arbitrator Booth regarding arbitration in the staffing dispute relating to the 14-mile temporary fire station?

ANSWER

I have a summary of the outcome of those hearings which I am happy to make available to honourable members. Briefly, the major results of the hearing are that the 14-mile fire station be manned during the dry season and that previous working arrangements continue. This means that the minimum manning strength for low fire danger days will be 15 men and the minimum manning strength on very high to extreme fire danger days will be 17 men. Senior duty officers may call upon additional men should the situation so require in an emergency. These arrangements will be reviewed by the Director of Fire Services once he has had the opportunity to fully assess the brigade's operational requirements.

Cement Manufacture from Coral at Gunn Point

Mrs O'Neil to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

I would like to re-direct my earlier question to the Minister for Mines and Energy.

ANSWER

To advise the member, there have been applications made for at least 10 years for exploration licences for the area. Two of the parties involved in these licence applications are Adelaide Brighton Cement and Darwin Cement. I cannot tell the member of the business relationship between the 2 but I know that they have an interest. There are a couple of aspects that I would like to bring to the member's attention. Firstly, the land is under an Aboriginal land claim and, as such, the applications for exploration licences over the area would not be dealt with in the normal course of events. Secondly, the area of interest is outside the 3-mile limit and is therefore under Commonwealth jurisdiction. Therein lies a problem in itself because the Commonwealth, at this stage, does not have any legislation to enable us to handle offshore minerals although we can handle offshore gas and oil. As far as the taking of samples is concerned, I believe some sampling has been done in a minor way to test the chemical composition of the limestone reefs. I would not regard the actual sampling as anything extraordinary. It could be very helpful because it might determine at an early stage that there is nothing there worth pursuing and save private interests and government a lot of time in processing worthless applications. If the honourable member would like any additional information, I will get it for her but I leave it to her to advise me.

Demountables from Darwin Hospital

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Have all the demountables from the old Darwin Hospital been allocated?

ANSWER

The demountables were certainly allocated, however not all parties to whom they have been allocated have removed them. Of late there have been at least 2, to my recollection, changes and withdrawals of offer as it were and demountables have been used for other purposes. The removal of all the buildings that are surplus at the Darwin Hospital certainly has been planned for.

University Planning Unit

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

In view of the announcement of the federal government that there will be no funding for the Territory university in the current triennium, could he advise what will happen to the University Planning Unit?

ANSWER

As the honourable member is well aware, the federal government took the decision that the Northern Territory does not, in its view, require a university at this time, completely in the absence of the advice of the very body it set up to so advise. I must say it is one of the most ridiculous turns of events that I have ever experienced. The Tertiary Education Commission, of course, has a charter to make that advice available to the federal government, notwithstanding the government's decision. I understand the TEC will do that quite soon. The future of the Commonwealth's funding could be somewhat coloured by the views of the Tertiary Education Commission. It is the intention of the government that there shall be a university for the Northern Territory, and it is therefore the intention of the government that the Interim Planning Act continue until such time as a university act is introduced into this Assembly. It is certainly the intention of the government to establish an interim senate. We intend that there shall be a university in the Northern Territory. It is a matter of convincing the Commonwealth that we are correct in that intention. There is no reason why we cannot pass in this Assembly - if the Assembly is so willing - an act to establish a university of the Northern Territory, with or without Commonwealth funding. What it does mean, of course, is that we may run into great difficulties as we get into the business of undergraduate teaching without Commonwealth money for the simple reason that the Commonwealth is the sole funding agent of undergraduate teaching throughout Australia and it would be seen by other universities as odd, to say the least, if the Northern Territory went alone into that type of funding. There are many things we can do in the area of establishing a university notwithstanding the present Commonwealth government decision. I would think that we could do virtually all of those things which a university does short of actual undergraduate lecturing. I hope that the Commonwealth will come to the view arrived at by the Northern Territory community: a university is needed in the Northern Territory. I do not know what the recommendations of the TEC will be but I hope they will be favourable to the establishing of a university in the Northern Territory and, if they are, I hope the Commonwealth will see the light.

Beatrice Hill Research Station

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION AND TOURISM

What are the government's intentions for the use of the complex at Beatrice Hill now that Professor Harry Messel has vacated the premises?

ANSWER

The proposal is that the Beatrice Hill Research Station be incorporated into the Coastal Plains Research Station for work on buffalo research and pasture improvement. There is also a possibility of carrying out some rice research.

Air Terminal for Darwin

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In view of the federal government's decision to sell Australian air terminals to the private sector, can the minister confirm whether Darwin's new terminal will be constructed on schedule?

ANSWER

I am unable to provide the honourable member with that information. I will provide it to her later in these sittings.

Director of NT Fire Brigade

Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What experience in fire fighting and fire prevention does the new director of the NT fire service have and how much of that experience has been obtained in tropical conditions?

ANSWER

The experience that the new director has is quite extensive. I ask the member to place the question on notice.

Trotting in the Territory

Mr HARRIS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Rumour has it that trotting will be coming to Darwin in the not too distant future. Has the Racing and Gaming Commission been approached to support trotting in the Territory?

ANSWER

No application has been put to the Racing and Gaming Commission to establish a trotting industry in the Northern Territory although some interest has been expressed in the establishment of a trotting track in the Northern Territory. The Racing and Gaming Commission has quite an open mind on this matter. Indeed, the upgrading and future plans for the Winnellie Park Greyhound Track may include the possibility of a trotting track at the same venue in due course. However, at this time, it is only a broad idea in people's minds. There is no serious push in the community by persons interested in establishing trotting in the Territory.

Commonwealth Insurance Commissioner

Mr ISAACS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Has the Treasurer noted that the office of the Commonwealth Insurance Commissioner is to reduce its supervision of the insurance industry throughout Australia as a result of the recent federal government decision to review its functions? Is the Treasurer satisfied that the operations of the industry in the Northern Territory are being adequately scrutinised to ensure the security of policy holders?

ANSWER

I am certainly satisfied that the Northern Territory Insurance Commissioner is carrying out his functions as laid down for him under legislation passed by this Assembly. It is quite clear that the Northern Territory Commissioner does not have powers or indeed resources to keep an eye on the Australia-wide insurance companies offering certain forms of insurance in the Northern Territory. I am certainly satisfied that he is doing that.

Rehabilitation of Rum Jungle

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Could the minister advise on the progress of plans to carry out further rehabilitation on the Rum Jungle uranium mine?

ANSWER

I can advise the honourable member that certain negotiations between the

Commonwealth and ourselves have been concluded. I am not aware of the details, but I will write to him and put them on paper so that he is up to date. If he would like to ring my office every month and remind me, I will send him a written report so that he does not get too far behind.

60-Mile Farm

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Is it the intention of the government that the 60-mile farm be taken over by the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority and, if so, what is the reason for this?

ANSWER

I understand that the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority has an arrangement with the Department of Primary Production to position one of its operators at the 60-mile farm. It is establishing a house at UARES.

Bores in Humpty Doo Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is the Water Division putting down exploratory or production bores in the Humpty Doo area? If so, what is the reason?

ANSWER

I do not believe that the department is sinking bores in that area at the moment.

Funds for Hydro-electric Scheme

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is it the intention of the government to seek funds from the Loan Council later this month for a hydro-electricity scheme?

ANSWER

I will be making a statement later in the sittings on the total electricity strategy. The short answer to her question is no.

Hearing Damage in Pinball Parlours

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In view of the recent testing carried out by his department that indicates that both the users and employees of pinball parlours will suffer permanent hearing damage after a disturbingly short period of time, what is the minister going to do to redress the situation?

ANSWER

The honourable member raises an issue that is currently being examined by the department. I understand that an environmental health unit, which is comprised of officers of the Department of Health and the Department of Mines and Energy, has looked at several pinball parlours in the Darwin area and will examine others throughout the Northern Territory to establish whether the noise levels are injurious on a permanent basis to the people who use the pinball parlours and determine what should be done. I think the important factor is the amount of use given by any individual to a parlour at any one time. Certainly people employed in parlours must be at a disadvantage. However, they are there by their own choice and the degree of government control has to be examined. When the matter is finalised, I will be happy to advise the honourable member of the outcome.

Funding to Industry

Mr D.W. COLLINS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What is the expected level of funding that the Northern Territory Development Commission will have made available to industry for the financial year 1980-81?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory Development Corporation is running at a very high level of activity and honourable members will be aware that, in previous budgets, the government has chosen to increase funding to the Territory Development Corporation. Until April this year, the Northern Territory Development Corporation had allocated or committed \$5.2m in new loans to primary industry, secondary industry and tourism. It is estimated that, by the end of 1980-81, the total will be about \$6.9m and, compared with \$3.6m for the previous year, that is an increase of some 92%. The government is determined that in general it will assist as a lender of last resort. That is not so in the case of loans to primary industry etc but, as far as general industry in the Territory is concerned, the government is determined to assist people to establish the infrastructure that is required to keep Territory people employed as far as possible and to keep the Territory's population expanding as fast as we can.

Project Farms

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Why were the number of project farms proposed for the Douglas Daly region reduced from 4 to 2, given a short list of 8 eligible farmers for the project?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, one of the constraints imposed on the operation of the authority was that of obtaining enough land to proceed with the original planning of the 4 project farms. The position is that 2 farms are presently being developed. We hope to secure a third and have it developed by the end of this year. I believe that the progress made by the chairman of the agricultural authority has been quite significant. The complete staffing of his Land Development Section has been completed. Land acquisition contracts should be signed this month. Of the 64 applicants, 8 farmers were interviewed and are on a short list. We shall be selecting those farmers in the weeks ahead. We hope that they will take up residence on the project farm in August or September. Some 600 hectares have been cleared with windrowing, bore development, water development and an airstrip alongside the Hot Springs road. Tenders have been let for 70 kilometres of fencing. There were 6 houses in the original order which are going up now: 1 at Upper Adelaide River, 3 at Douglas Daly and 2 on the 2 project farms that are almost ready. The other hopes and aspirations of the authority in the next year or so will be the establishment of a grain-receiving store in Katherine and, of course, a fertiliser seed store. I think the progress has been very good and tribute must be paid to the chairman of the agricultural authority.

Darwin Central Zone Sewerage System

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What action is the government taking to overcome the increasingly serious problems of the Darwin central zone sewerage system?

ANSWER

I believe that the department is taking some steps to improve the facility out at Ludmilla swamp. I will try to obtain a brief for the honourable member.

Magistrates in Alice Springs

Mr ISAACS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Is it true that Alice Springs will shortly be served by only 1 resident magistrate? Is it intended to retain 2 resident magistrates in Alice Springs in future given the current workload of the magistrates there and population trends in the Centre?

ANSWER

Some time ago, the Chief Minister carried out a survey of the workloads of the various Territory centres and the need for magistrates to undertake those workloads in the lower courts. As a result of carrying out that survey, it was decided that there was a greater workload in Darwin and that there was insufficient work in Alice Springs at present to justify 2 full-time magistrates. The Chief Magistrate's proposal is that, should there be an accumulation of work from time to time in Alice Springs because of the transfer of the second magistrate from there to Darwin, a magistrate will be sent to Alice Springs to catch up with the backlog.

Annual Reports of NTDC

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is it his intention to table the 2 overdue annual reports of the Northern Territory Development Corporation during the current sittings of the Assembly and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

During the sittings, I will be tabling the annual report of the Northern Territory Development Corporation for 1978-79. This document has only recently been completed. We received the Auditor-General's report on it. As I say, it has been completed in the last few days and the final work on the 1979-80 report could not commence until it was completed. However, it is proceeding now and will be tabled in this Assembly as soon as possible.

Education of Handicapped Children

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

The Northern Territory teachers Federation has recently criticised the provision made by the Department of Education for the education of handicapped children in the Northern Territory. Can he give any assurance that adequate provision is being made for these children?

ANSWER

From memory, the comment that the member refers to is the only comment that the Northern Territory Teachers Federation has made on the Green Paper. I find it rather disappointing, to say the least, that their first and only comment on that document should not only be a negative one but a completely inaccurate one. The fact is that this government, since it assumed responsibility for what is called special education, has increased the number of teachers in that field by 100%. We have doubled the number in the short period that we have had responsibility. Indeed, approximately 14% of Northern Territory teachers are now involved in one way or another in the field of special education. We have a very sophisticated system. In that particular field, it is probably one of the best in the country. In fact, we have established a council under the Education Act to advise the minister and action is being taken on recommendations made by that body. While I appreciate that the comment made by the Teachers Federation was one of its rare ones that actually related to kids, it is most unfortunate that it was not true.

Northern Territory Teaching Service

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has the abolition of the Commonwealth Teaching Service and the former conditions of service enjoyed by Northern Territory teachers altered the Northern Territory government's decision to establish and maintain a teaching service for the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I wonder if that question is prompted by my giving notice of an amendment to the Teaching Service Act. I hasten to point out to the honourable member that there is no relationship between the 2. Nonetheless, he does raise a very interesting point. The cornerstone of the arrangements between this government and officers in the public employ has been a government guarantee of conditions of service equal to or at least not worse than those as at the date of transfer. That is a very important phrase of course: 'as at the date of transfer'. This government accepted in part the proposition for the establishment of an independent teaching service with its own commissioner on the basis that all teachers to whom I spoke, not just the federation executive, perceived very strongly that an independent commissioner was a condition of service as at the date of transfer, I wonder what advice the Teachers Federation might offer me.

Local Products Promotion Campaign

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Which company prepared the local products promotion campaign for the Northern Territory Development Corporation?

ANSWER

The local products display, which I have not yet had the opportunity to view myself, has been established in the foyer of the building that the Territory Development Corporation now occupies. It was manufactured in Western Australia by an international firm of design consultants called Industrial and Architectural Model Makers of Fremantle. These people were commissioned by the board of the TDC to provide, design and construct the display case and panels which incorporate an aluminium frame on which the company holds the Australian patent. Whilst it is true that the individual components of the display could have been manufactured separately in the Territory, what could not be supplied was the industrial designer to take the project through from conception to construction incorporating modifications which were required from time to time as the project evolved. The display cases and panels are incidental to the items displayed which are obviously all local products. As a result of this exercise, the NTDC is now attempting to encourage a fully-qualified industrial display expert to establish in Darwin so that in the future local materials and local tradesmen can be fully utilised in this specialised area of trade promotion. Whilst it is a fairly competitive field interstate, it is new to the Territory. It was unfortunate that the NTDC found it necessary to have a first-class display presented to the public in showcases which were made interstate. We hope that it will be the last time that it has to happen.

Closure of Dump Road Crossing in Alice Springs

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

What action has he taken over the Australian National Railways' closure of the dump road crossing in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

My department has written to the Australian National Railways to have that particular section reopened.

Crocodile Sightings near Public Swimming Areas

Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

What is being done about crocodile sightings near public swimming areas, particularly yesterday's sightings of a crocodile at Vestey's Beach?

ANSWER

In relation to crocodile sightings generally and in relation to crocodiles being sighted near areas frequented by the public, the Conservation Commission has undertaken for quite some time a program of trapping or netting crocodiles and then either removing them to an area of less danger to the public or giving them to the operator of the local crocodile farm. I understand that at present there is 1 team of 3 crocodile catchers operating and that a further team of 3 is under training. These 2 teams will operate mainly in the Darwin area but also from time to time at Nhulunbuy. The Conservation Commission has established a crocodile hotline. I think the press has given prominence to telephone numbers so that people can report sightings of crocodiles to the Conservation Commission and prompt action be taken to attempt to trap the crocodiles. The problem that arose yesterday at Vestey's Beach was that a 1.6 metre crocodile was sighted at about 10 am by a person from the Ski Club. The Conservation Commission sent a team to the area to attempt to capture it. Unfortunately, the crocodile had been frightened by sightseers and the team was unable to get close enough to it. They were there for about 2 hours but it finally disappeared. They went out again last night looking for the crocodile but after about 3 hours were again unsuccessful. They will probably have to wait on further sightings from the public to locate it. It appeared to be a young female and these apparently move about a fair bit. Another team went to Middle Arm last night to check for crocodiles. Other officers of the Conservation Commission are trapping crocodiles over a 12-mile stretch upstream and downstream from the Daly River reserve and the public picnic area. Another team of rangers left for Maningrida this morning after a reported sighting.

Special Purposes Leases Alice Springs

Mr BELL to TREASURER and MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When will the application for special purposes leases for transient and permanent residents in Alice Springs lodged by the Tangentyere Council and other incorporated bodies before the minister's statement of 22 May be approved?

ANSWER

The question should be directed to the Minister for Lands and Housing who handles the processing of applications for land by any party in the Northern Territory. My statement was associated with a general policy laid down by Cabinet on the subject of camping areas in towns. That is why the statement emanated from my office. However, questions on the subject of individual applications, their processing and whether or not they fit into the policy of the government should be directed to the Minister for Lands and Housing.

Special Purposes Leases Alice Springs

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I redirect the question to the Minister for Lands and Housing.

ANSWER

I do not have a clear picture of which lease applications the member refers to. If he wants a definitive answer to his question, it would be better for him to put it on notice because the Tangentyere Council and most of the councils down there seem to scatter applications around like confetti. There are 3 applications before me at the moment which are recognised by the government as being legitimate. There is one on South Terrace and it has been indicated to

the people in Alice Springs that that lease will be made available to them. There is also the Larapinta Valley application, which I understand is almost ready for handing over, and also the Old Timers needs claim. Those will be issued as soon as possible. I do not know which other claims the honourable member refers to.

Assistance to Rural Development

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Does the Territory Development Corporation provide assistance for rural development?

ANSWER

The Territory Development Corporation does provide a range of assistance to people for rural development. By the term 'rural development', I understand the honourable member for Tiwi to mean agricultural-type pursuits or pastoral-type pursuits. Under the provisions of Territory Development Corporation policy and procedures at the moment, assistance is provided by way of farm improvement under the rural adjustment scheme and under the provisions of a cropping development scheme. The government introduced this scheme 2 years ago and has continued with it. Aid is also provided under the Territory Development Corporation's general guidelines for assisting the development of industry without specifying particular industries. The farm improvement component of the rural adjustment scheme provides assistance to eligible applicants to develop their holdings into an economic unit by improving the effective use of a farm without adding to its area. Advances can be made for plant, livestock, carry-on expenses and further property development intended to restore the economic viability of the farm. That is the principal area where a person with an agricultural pursuit would make application to the Territory Development Corporation. The rural adjustment scheme applies to all agricultural, horticultural and pastoral industries and has a strict eligibility criterion which restricts assistance to existing farmers only and requires that an applicant must have good prospects of long-term viability. The Territory Development Corporation's general guidelines for assisting industry can apply to a range of areas for a range of purposes. Indeed, the Territory Development Corporation has been a very busy body for the last 3 years in the Territory providing assistance to industries to maintain the pace of economic growth.

Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme

Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many students in the Northern Territory are in receipt of aid under the tertiary education assistance scheme and how many are on full allowance?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I ask that the question be placed on notice.

Papunya Health Service

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

The minister made a statement that 'Papunya-type health services' are a failure and that the facts demonstrate this. Could he advise the Assembly what services he describes as 'Papunya-type health services' and what are the facts that demonstrate they are a failure?

ANSWER

Before self-government, the Papunya health service was run as a community health operation by the Department of Health. Before the transfer of that department to the Northern Territory, the Papunya operation was transferred within the Commonwealth to the Liappa Congress for administration by that congress.

Funds were to be provided to the Liappa Congress by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs for a community-based health system. The philosophy of this sort of thing sounds very nice, but it contains problems which are compounded throughout the community. It is not possible to have a community-based health system that is not related to the overall health system in the Northern Territory. As was proven in the Papunya incident, the first requirement of the Papunya health service was drugs, then the aerial medical service, then the normal backup services that every community health system in the Territory requires from its nearest major hospital. Therein lay one of the flaws: they could not be an independent medical service providing a full medical service to the Papunya people because they did not have the backup system. One of the difficulties was a problem of maintaining continuity of staff. This is not a new problem to the Northern Territory; we all have it in various fields. Again it is a problem that is compounded for the Papunya organisation or the Liappa Congress because it is so small; it has no greater resources to draw on in times of emergency to replace staff. One of the advantages of the present system is that, if staff are removed from or leave of their own choice a certain area in a remote place, there are several hundred other sisters in the system who can be called upon in an emergency to replace them. The same goes for doctors and other members of the medical fraternity.

I received a report from the Department of Health in November 1980 outlining what it believed was a deterioration in the operation of the Papunya Health Centre per se, the standards of health and hygiene and the overall health of the children in the community as measured by the admissions to the Alice Springs health system. I was so concerned with the content of the report that I took it to the federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and suggested to him that there needed to be a review of the Papunya situation in light of the report, if only to confirm or deny what was contained in it. The federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs has had his people looking at it but I do not know that any action has been taken. I have also raised the matter with the federal Minister for Health because it is a matter of concern to me that this situation may continue and possibly deteriorate. I would be more than happy to let the honourable member see the report. I regard it as confidential at this stage but, if the honourable member would like to read it, I am more than happy for him to do so.

About 12 months ago, I had planned a trip to Papunya. Quite contrary to reports I read in the press that I have been invited a dozen times, I had to invite myself through the Director of Health, Dr Gurd, who made arrangements for us to travel. However, an election was pulled on and the visit was postponed. I have not had an opportunity to make the visit even though it is my intention to do so. The government's view on independent health services is that it is more than happy to see them working in tandem with the Northern Territory's medical service. It becomes extremely difficult when, for their own reasons, they decide to become independent and then call on the department for every other service that is required in the community. There is a certain amount of give and take required in both services if it is to work. I would hope that the new health funding arrangements will mean the entry of general practitioners into areas like Papunya, Yuendumu and any other communities that want to have them. I do not think that that is an unreasonable extension at all but it is a matter for the community. I realise that the principle might be anathema to some members but nevertheless some people are used to doing things in that way and that is their right. I will leave the invitation open to the member to peruse the report on Papunya. If he needs any further information on it, I will endeavour to provide it for him.

Financial Assistance to Primary Producers

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Can he give me an approximation of the extent of financial assistance to

primary producers this financial year?

ANSWER

By 30 June 1981, the Northern Territory government will have provided loans and assistance to the extent of about \$585,000. This covers carry-on finance, fertiliser, freight subsidies, advances against crops by way of pre-payment and various other services such as marketing and harvesting assistance. The government has also provided assistance to other aspects of primary industry for drought relief, brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication programs and other extension research services. These services will total over \$6.5m by the end of the financial year.

Control of Antibiotics in Stockfeeds

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

When will he introduce legislation to control the quality of stockfeeds, particularly the use of antibiotics in same?

ANSWER

I expect to give notice of the legislation tomorrow.

Penalties for Non-attendance at Schools

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What action, if any, is being taken to enforce penalties under the Education Act for the offence of non-attendance at schools?

ANSWER

The member's question raises one of the most difficult subjects that I am faced with at the moment. The answer in short is that no action is being taken. That does not mean to say that I am of the view that some action ought not be taken. There is quite clearly prima facie evidence that that provision in the Education Act is being quite consciously breached in a number of places. However, establishing that to the satisfaction of the court is quite another matter because it becomes a matter of parental judgment as opposed to the 'system's' judgment. I think a prosecution would be extremely difficult. Nonetheless, in a couple of instances, I am so concerned that I may be moved to discuss the matter with the Attorney-General once I have collected a little more information. I will perhaps seek his advice on the advisability of trying a couple of test cases. It is not an easy matter to define just what is an action by a parent which is deliberately against the interests of a child. The provision in the act was designed mainly to prevent exploitation. That is not the type of instance that I have before me. By exploitation, I mean such things as making the child work in a shop rather than sending him to school. Nonetheless, I have evidence of one instance of what could clearly be regarded as neglect. In the other instance, the problem arises because a parent does not happen to like the principal even though that principal is an excellent teacher and has excellent staff. It resulted from a job application. That is quite unacceptable as a reason for not sending a child to school. Perhaps I should not say any more because I may pre-empt what may become a matter before the courts.

Poker Machines in Alice Springs Casino

Mr BELL to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Will he reverse his decision to allow the installation of poker machines in the Alice Springs Casino as a result of the continuing expression of protest by the residents of central Australia?

ANSWER

I will not reverse the ministerial discretion allowed me under an act of

this Assembly to approve games of chance to be played in casinos in the Northern Territory. The expressions of protest that he refers to are genuine expressions of concern but I believe that they do not fairly take into consideration all the aspects of the matter and the nature of poker machines themselves. To date, I have certainly heard no good argument why I should reverse my decision.

Palm Leaf Beetle - Biological Control

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

When is a decision likely to be made on whether or not to introduce a parasite to control the palm beetle?

ANSWER

The question of introducing a biological control to contain the spread of the palm leaf beetle is certainly one that the government is considering. A decision will not be taken lightly; many tests have to be undertaken. It would be senseless to introduce a predator to eat a predator and find that we have something beyond control. The question is being examined and I will have more information in due course.

Dick Ward Drive Intersection with Ross Smith Avenue

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has he received the traffic consultant's study on the Ross Smith Avenue Dick Ward Drive intersection which was commissioned by his department and, if so, what are its recommendations?

ANSWER

I have not received the study yet.

Outbreak of Strangles

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION

What program have the veterinary officers of the Department of Primary Production initiated to combat the recent outbreak of strangles in horses in the rural area?

ANSWER

Last night, there was a meeting between government and private veterinarians. Their concern has been to allow the continuation of horse events. They have agreed on control measures which I will read to the Assembly: 'All infected premises will remain in quarantine for at least 14 days after all obvious clinical signs of infection have abated. The only exceptions will be groups of horses on affected properties which are isolated from clinical cases for 14 days and show no signs of disease during this period. As a general recommendation, horse owners are advised not to move unvaccinated horses to any horse event or gathering of horses. All horse events should be adequately supervised and all animals examined for signs of infectious diseases prior to entry. These measures will also allow people to get their horses vaccinated. The outbreak has been contained and only 2 cases of strangles have been confirmed. There have been 100 cases of mild upper respiratory tract infection which is generally a mild disease'.

Auction of Houses in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

During the last sittings, the minister indicated that the Housing Commission would auction 3 Housing Commission houses in Nhulunbuy. Could he say when and under what conditions these auctions will be held?

ANSWER

I do not have the information but I undertake to give it to the honourable member some time today.

Outpatients Fees

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Why does it cost \$40 per consultation for Outpatients treatment when a private doctor costs about \$10.50 and he makes a profit?

ANSWER

Our hospitals are not structured on the same lines as general practitioner operations. They are built as high cost areas of treatment for people who are very sick. We have casualty units and primary care units that could better be operated in another way but, for our own convenience, they are operated within the hospital. Consequently, all the overheads and costs of the hospital, particularly the buildings and infrastructure of the Outpatients areas, are much greater than you would find anywhere else in the community. Compared with what a private practitioner would use to do much the same job, they are quite out of this world. The \$40 fee that we estimate it costs us to see a person in Outpatients in the Northern Territory is an average cost throughout the Territory. The cost varies from hospital to hospital as does the bed cost. It is a yardstick that we use to obtain a measure of efficiency. As some people have already said, there are cheaper ways of doing it. For instance, the congress in Alice Springs operates for about \$12.50 and private people provide a service for about \$10. That is just the nature of the beast. I cannot give an indication that that level of expenditure will be reduced; it is just a fact of life.

Northern Territory Trade Symbol

Ms D'ROZARIO to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Does the NTDC hold a copyright of the Northern Territory trade symbol and, if not, who holds the copyright?

ANSWER

I do not believe anyone holds the copyright. If I understand the situation correctly, the government does propose to introduce legislation on this subject to enable the Territory Development Corporation to hold copyright on the use of the Northern Territory trade symbol and to approve its use only for specific purposes. At present, I do not believe anyone does.

Crocodile Sightings near Public Swimming Areas

Mr EVERINGHAM (Chief Minister): In further elucidation of my earlier answer on crocodiles, I have a late extra bulletin that has just been brought to me. I have just been informed that one of the catching teams has returned to Berrimah with a crocodile captured in the vicinity of Vestey's Beach. I have no further particulars as to whether it is a young female crocodile or otherwise, but if it is a young female crocodile, no doubt it will soon be happily placed with a large team of other crocodiles of both sexes at the crocodile farm.

Crocodile Farm Problems

Mr B. COLLINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Could the Chief Minister advise the Assembly whether the problems that were being experienced at the crocodile farm have been resolved.

ANSWER

I understand that they have been resolved.

Funding of Women's Centres in NT

Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Does the Commonwealth provide 75% of the running costs for women's refuges in the Territory with the Northern Territory making up the shortfall as occurs elsewhere? Can he inform the Assembly what funding allocations women's refuges will receive in 1981-82?

ANSWER

The Leader of the Opposition has asked me for details of an agreement that existed before self-government. I will need time to seek the details. I do not have in my head the specific figures he requires for current funding arrangements with women's centres in the Northern Territory. I would appreciate it if the member would put that question on notice.

Sale of Poisons

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is the minister intending to proceed with the introduction of legislation during these sittings to improve the control of the regulations governing the possession and sale of poisons such as strychnine?

ANSWER

I am aware that the poisons legislation has been through Cabinet. I cannot say whether it will be introduced into this Assembly in this sittings but it is certainly ready.

Coastal Surveillance

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

In the interests of coastal surveillance off the Northern Territory and having regard to the importance of the Northern Territory in the illegal importation of drugs into Australia and the number of disused airstrips in the Top End, is it a fact that radar surveillance is not continuous for 24 hours from the RAAF Base? If so, could the Chief Minister use his powers of liaison to discuss the situation with the Minister for Defence?

ANSWER

I am not quite sure what powers of liaison are but I will certainly attempt mentally to define them to myself. If I find that they are of any substance, I will attempt to use those powers. I guess what the member means is that I should take this subject up with the Minister for Defence whom I have found in the past to be often a hard-hearted man. On the question of surveillance generally, the Northern Territory considers that the present position is quite inadequate. Deficiencies of current provisions - in the view of the Northern Territory Police Commissioner especially - include the following: a reliance on civilian operations, lack of sufficient resources, inability to respond to intelligence and sighting information, absence of capacity for ad hoc patrols, fixed rates and insufficient localisation of activity. We believe that future arrangements which should apply for coastal surveillance should involve the establishment by the Commonwealth government of a coastguard authority. I have written to the Minister for Transport, Mr Hunt, who presently has responsibility for coastal surveillance, listing the deficiencies with a statement of the Territory's views and recommendations. Our view is that a well-trained and highly disciplined service is required. As I said before, this should be achieved by the establishment of a specialist coastguard authority. But it could be achieved by either of the following methods: an expansion of defence force capability or an expansion of police capability. We prefer the establishment of a specialist coastguard. There needs to be, however, close cooperation between defence forces, any coastguard authority that is formed and the police force. I do not know for certain

how long the radar facility at the Darwin Airport is manned. I believe that it is only manned for about 8 hours a day. I will obtain that information for the honourable member. She may rest assured that the Northern Territory is already pressing the Commonwealth government, not through the Minister for Defence but through the Minister for Transport, for a reassessment of the current position.

Public Drunkenness

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

When does the Chief Minister intend to make a statement in this Assembly concerning proposed legislation on public drunkenness?

ANSWER

I would have thought that if an honourable member wished to make any comment on the documents released by the government over the last couple of weeks, he could have done so in adjournment debates. In fact, a couple of the so-called matters of definite public importance that we have seen this week - health funding particularly - could have been equally well handled in an adjournment debate. The documents have been disseminated by the government for public comment and I circulated the documents to all honourable members. At present, it would be premature for the matter to be debated in a formal sense in this Assembly. Certainly, the government has not made up its mind. It is very difficult for us to express a firm attitude until we gauge public reaction and feedback. I believe that the appropriate time for debating the measure will be if they do indeed come to fruition and if there is legislation. I am open to persuasion on this matter but I believe that members can constructively criticise the documents in the course of the adjournment debates in these sittings.

Rice Production

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What action is to be taken to reintroduce commercial rice production in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I would like to be able to give that a very short answer and say that commercial rice production is a viable proposition. The position is not so simple. We made an announcement late in March which indicated that the government had deferred its plans to set up a project rice farm. This was most unfortunate but the establishment cost would have been in the order of some \$800,000 over a 3-year period. There was the problem of water storage which was alluded to by the member for Victoria River and there were also problems of testing and further research in that particular area. Thus, the government will not be able to reintroduce the idea of establishing a project farm in the near future. However, a rice task force has been established by the department. We now have 3 rice agronomists on the staff. Future research is being undertaken by the Department of Primary Production in concert with CSIRO. It is hoped that firm steps will be taken towards the next commercial season.

Ministerial Decision on Crown Lease

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Will he take steps to reverse the decision to offer a Crown lease on Northern Territory portion 1097 which has been demonstrated to be subject to a claim under the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act?

ANSWER

I will be addressing myself to that question this afternoon but the short answer is no.

Differential Rating of Properties of City Area

Mr HARRIS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is the government considering proposals to enable the city council to provide differential rates for properties in the city area?

ANSWER

The government, in consultation with the city council in Darwin, is considering a proposal to amend the Local Government Act to enable differential rating in the city area. The subject rose principally because of the advent of the high-rise car-park in the centre of Darwin and the examination of ways in which contributions may be put towards that car-park by properties which benefit from it. Much of the development in the central business district in Darwin has been done on the basis of waiving car parking requirements under the Planning Act. Those waivers have been in the interests of development. In some cases, they were not requested to put up car-parks to suit the size of the buildings that were built. These systems are not uncommon in other cities around Australia where there are high-rise car-parks. Contributions through rating or other formulae are paid towards the maintenance and cost of high-rise car-parks. Contributions are drawn from those businesses which are specifically benefiting from it. To answer the question, the government is studying this matter at present and I hope to be able to submit proposals to Cabinet in the near future.

Yulara Tourist Village

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What is the approximate value of the government's investment to date in Yulara Village tourist development?

ANSWER

I am not qualified to give an answer on this particular matter. I suggest that the honourable member place the question on notice and direct it to the Chief Minister.

Electricity Connections in Rural Area

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

In November 1978, the government introduced a scheme for power connections in rural areas which provided for NTEC to fund up to \$2,000 of the cost of an extension for a consumer. In view of the considerable increase in the cost of electricity connections since that time is the government considering increasing the amount by which a consumer may be reimbursed?

ANSWER

There is no proposal before me at the moment to have the level of the subsidy increased. One thing that would affect the cost of connection or a subsidy increase would be the number of people taking advantage of the electricity supply.

Jury Trial Prosecutors

Mr D.W. COLLINS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

I refer to page 12 of the Northern Territory Department of Law Second Annual Report. What success has been gained in recruiting and training of experienced jury trial prosecutors?

ANSWER

I thank the honourable member for his question which certainly indicates his dedication to the detail of departmental reports. I am informed by the Department of Law that it is extremely difficult to recruit experienced jury

trial prosecutors to work in the Northern Territory. According to my informants in the department, there seem to be 2 major reasons for this. Firstly, an experienced prosecutor in most other jurisdictions in Australia appears before a jury or an appellate court almost every working day whereas in the Northern Territory it is extremely rare for there to be more than 2 jury trials running simultaneously. In fact, this only occurs when the Supreme Court is sitting in Alice Springs as well as in Darwin. Perhaps it is not a scene which appeals to experienced jury trial prosecutors in that they may feel that they could not sufficiently keep their hand in. The Federal Court, which sits in Darwin twice a year, does not offer much experience or scope to an experienced performer from the south because in most southern cities there are more regular sittings of the Federal Court. Basically, the Department of Law believes that it is difficult to recruit experienced men because they feel perhaps there is limited opportunity for their professional development in the Northern Territory. I do not believe that is necessarily so, but it is often difficult to convey to people in the south through the medium of an advertisement that there are indeed greater opportunities. Another difficulty is that of the level of salaries. Salaries offered by the Department of Law are reasonable, but often it would be necessary to offer virtually double the going salary by way of loading to attract these people away from the southern cities because either they are happy in their work in the Crown Law Office in the particular state or they could go to the private bar in the same place and probably earn double or treble the money. It is a big problem. We do attempt to recruit good people who are trained in the course of their experience here. Often people leave the Territory after they have gained a measure of experience which then goes to benefit some Attorney-General's Department or Crown Law Office elsewhere in this country.

Accommodation for Outback Students

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is he considering establishing, or assisting some other group to establish, residential accommodation in Darwin for secondary school students and apprentices whose homes are outside Darwin?

ANSWER

I would very much like to be able to provide precisely what the honourable member for Nightcliff mentions. We are aware of this need which goes beyond school age children to students at the Darwin Community College and, hopefully, at a university. The honourable member would be well aware of the expense of doing this. At the moment, in conjunction with other agencies of government, the department is examining a number of options to provide such accommodation. I think we would be foolish if we did not examine such possibilities as private construction and lease-back arrangements with options to purchase. In fact, we should examine any option. I know that this need is not confined to Darwin and its environs. There is a great demand in your own area, Sir, and of course in Alice Springs and Tennant Creek. There is a limit to how much we can produce in a given time. I believe that the government must address itself to this problem and certainly we intend to do so.

Medibank Agency at TIO

Mr HARRIS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

I understand that Medibank is shortly to cease the agency arrangement it has had since the beginning of the Territory Insurance Office. Can he inform me of the latest position?

ANSWER

The Territory Insurance Office has operated an agency for Medibank. In recent times, it has become a lost operation as indeed has the whole operation of health functions. Discussions were commenced some months ago with Medibank

either to subsidise the Territory Insurance Office to continue to run the agency or to take it over itself. In view of the forthcoming changes to health arrangements, Medibank decided that it would prefer to run its own branch in the Northern Territory. Another factor influencing the Medibank decision was that it is about to go on line with an Australia-wide computer system. It felt that the difference between its own and the TIO computer equipment would present technical problems. There will be no reduction in the services provided in the Territory to Medibank clients following this cessation of the TIO's agency arrangement. The staff wishing to remain with the Territory Insurance Office will have the opportunity to do so while those wishing to work in the Medibank office will be able to do so without loss of benefits. It is understood that Medibank will open an office in the Centrepoint building by the end of June.

Health Funding

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

The minister stated during the debate on health funding that Queensland was able to obtain its extra \$16m as a result of a large body of statistical evidence which the Territory did not possess. Could he advise what he is doing to redress this situation?

ANSWER

I was referring to historical information that related to charges that were already being levied through medical benefit funds in Queensland for people who were in public hospitals. We have had a situation in the Northern Territory where it has been in the patients' interests not to belong to a medical benefits fund because there was a free hospital service; there was no point in paying a medical benefits levy. We do not have any base data which gives a true indication of the number of people in the community who have medical benefits cover or even the number of people who use medical benefits. In my own instance, one member of my family, who is covered by medical benefits, went to hospital and gave the wrong answer at the counter about whether he was in the fund. He was treated free of cost when in fact the fund should have been sent a bill. That is the sort of information that we do not have available to us in the Northern Territory to use to argue a point. Queensland, by virtue of its different system, was able to make evidence available to the Commonwealth.

Dam Site on Upper Adelaide River

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

If a dam site is chosen on the upper Adelaide River, will the water in this dam be reserved for agricultural development or is it planned to be used to augment Darwin water supplies?

ANSWER

If such a dam were constructed, I believe it would be for both agricultural and domestic purposes.

Yulara Tourist Village

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What guidelines have been laid down regarding the height of buildings at Yulara Tourist Village?

ANSWER

The development of Yulara Tourist Village comes under the Conservation Commission. As such, it is under the purview of the Chief Minister. I refer the question to the Chief Minister.

Yulara Tourist Village

Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

What guidelines have been laid down regarding the height of buildings at Yulara Tourist Village?

ANSWER

I ask the member to place the question on notice.

Catering and Hospitality Courses

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How successful are the food and drink waiting courses at Gillen House Alice Springs in regard to gaining employment for the students?

ANSWER

With the advent of the hotel-casino complex in Alice Springs, there will be considerable demand for staff in the catering industry. The record to date has been very encouraging. In fact, it is high time that we made known to the public throughout the Territory the services available and the benefits to be gained from a course at the school of hospitality and catering at Alice Springs. Six students recently completed an 11-week fulltime course in commercial cooking at the Gillen House and they have all entered employment or have been offered employment. Two students have already been employed by Federal Hotels and 1 by Yirara College. Two have received offers from 2 motels. Two food and drink courses have already been offered. Seven students took up the first course and all gained employment as a result. One student dropped out of the course prematurely to accept employment. This of course is a dilemma that students face: half way through the course they realise that they are able to get a job and as a result they do not complete the course. I find it regrettable that they do not complete the course prior to obtaining employment. In that industry, it is quite obvious that employment will be there at the end of the course, although I can understand the apprehension that young people may have. The second of these courses had 7 students and has only just been completed. One student has already been employed at the Oasis Motel while the remaining 6 are currently being interviewed by the new industry opening up down there.

Enrolment of Aborigines on Electoral Roll

Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What action is being taken by the government to ensure that Aborigines of 18 years of age and over who are currently not on the electoral roll are so enrolled to ensure compliance with the Northern Territory Electoral Act?

ANSWER

I do not have the details to hand. I suggest the Leader of the Opposition place the question on notice. I will ensure that he receives detailed reply.

Todd River Causeway

Mr BELL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

The cost of the causeway across the Todd River from the town of Alice Springs to the casino is being shared by his department and Federal Pacific Hotels Pty Ltd. What proportion of the bill for the causeway across the river is being paid by the Northern Territory government?

ANSWER

I am unable to answer the honourable member precisely. I will obtain information and provide it to him later during these sittings.

Shipment of Yellowcake from Nabarlek

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What progress is being made on the shipment of yellowcake from the Nabarlek project?

ANSWER

Queensland Mines' Nabarlek operation continues to be the subject of industrial action by its employees. Production of yellowcake has been affected by members of the Seamen's Union and the Waterside Workers Federation. This has also had an injurious effect on the shipment of yellowcake. The transport of yellowcake to Darwin ceased in April as storage at the Darwin warehouse reached capacity. All subsequent production has been retained at the mine site and production has now ceased. The treatment plant which has been operated by the staff since early this year has been placed in a holding situation. Queensland Mines has met its contract of sales for 1981 and proposes no further overseas deliveries for this year. Union bans on overseas shipments are still in effect and it is my hope that common sense will prevail between the parties to bring about a lifting of the bans before long. Negotiations are continuing on the mine site dispute. The Arbitration Commissioner's recommendation made on 27 May has not been accepted by the employees who have decided to remain out until the commissioner visits Darwin on the 9th of this month to give a determination on isolation allowances.

Dollar-for-Dollar Subsidy Scheme

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

As we are almost at the end of the financial year, what is the situation regarding the government's dollar-for-dollar subsidy scheme? Specifically, how much of the \$500,000 has been committed? If there is a remainder, what will happen to it?

ANSWER

In the Northern Directorate of an amount of \$375,000 which was set aside for that directorate for the purposes of the dollar-for-dollar subsidy scheme, the sum total of \$358,516 has already been made available. In the Southern Directorate a sum of roughly \$75,000 was set aside and \$74,019 has been made available. The department informs me that it expects the full amount as appropriated by this Assembly to be used for the purpose. I understand also that, contrary to all the howls and wails that come from various sectors over the policy behind the proposal, it has been extremely popular with parents if not with detractors.

Railway Survey

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

What contribution is the Department of Mines and Energy making towards the Alice Springs Railway survey?

ANSWER

The department will be contributing the services of the Northern Territory geological survey in 3 phases of the railway project. Its geologists will be working in conjunction with the Australian National Railways, the Surveyor-General's Department of the Commonwealth and our own Department of Transport and Works. Phase 1 will be the determination of the route. This work has begun and involves geologists in studies of published geological maps, ground location studies and airborne reconnaissance surveys. As the work becomes further defined, detailed geological mapping will be done of a corridor some 5 to 12 kilometres wide. This is a major and time-consuming exercise and has already been commenced between Alice Springs and Tennant Creek. The other 2 phases involving

the geological survey will follow. These are the search for railway building materials and the investigation of subsurface characteristics at bridge sites and cutting sites. This will involve engineering geologists in geophysical surveys of specific sites where they will use both seismic and electrical methods. It will also involve them in investigative drilling for the design of bridge foundations and an exploration for and testing of materials for building the railway. Quarry site investigations have already commenced. Apart from the railway work, the geological survey is presently engaged on a long-term program of airborne geophysical surveys. These are currently being done in the Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Darwin regions and will provide a spin-off benefit to the railway exercise in that they will be particularly useful in the definition of rock types along the route. This will help in identifying useful materials and suitable foundation. In all, the geological survey will be involved to the degree of using 10% of its staff resources for a period of 2 years on the survey project.

Auction of Houses in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Can he say when and under what conditions auctions of Housing Commission houses will take place in Nhulunbuy?

ANSWER

I indicated to the honourable member that I would find out why the auction of the 3 houses had not taken place. The answer is that a legal difficulty, at least in the minds of Nabalco, has prevented it from transferring a sublease to the Housing Commission in order for the auction to go ahead. It would seem that that legal difficulty is involved with the Tenancy Act. The Tenancy Act provides that, if not in a written form then by implied covenant, certain things are and remain the responsibility of the lessor. That includes such things as maintenance, insurance and so on. If it was to be held that the Tenancy Act applies to land transferred by Nabalco to the Housing Commission and subsequently sold to a third party, then Nabalco as sublessor would logically remain responsible for certain things relating to a premises which had been sold to a third party. There is a meeting scheduled for Friday for the Attorney-General and myself to try to sort it out. It is very possible that we will have to come back to this place to solve the problem.

Darwin Trader

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What arrangements have been made with the federal government for the continuation of the Darwin Trader service after September this year?

ANSWER

Negotiations are being carried out with the federal Department of Transport and also with the board and directors of ANL. At this moment, we are unable to determine whether the subsidy will be continued. However, I believe that the federal minister has given an indication that he will support the Northern Territory's bid for a further subsidy to the Darwin Trader to continue to September 1982. We will not know whether we will receive that subsidy until the federal budget is handed down. There are other options that are being looked at by the Northern Territory Department of Transport and Works. Other people have expressed an interest in providing a service on the eastern seaboard. Negotiations and discussions are taking place with these people in case the Darwin Trader is not subsidised by the federal government.

Ross Park Primary School

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is it true that a student of the Ross Park Primary School in Alice Springs on being sent by his teacher to the Assistant-Principal for disciplinary action threatened that Assistant-Principal with legal action if the Assistant-Principal caned him?

ANSWER

It is a pity a school has been named. I am not certain that it was that school anyway. It has been brought to my attention that this did indeed occur. While anyone is entitled to the protection of the law and legal representation, one normally assumes that happens after the event rather than before it. What this really raises is not so much an educational matter but the question of the type of use to which Aboriginal Legal Aid is being put in many cases. There is many a policeman who would probably feel the same way about the threat of this type of action. It is not that people really fear appearing before a court and being found to be guilty of civil liability for an action in tort. What they say to themselves is: 'This will cost me a fortune', and it would cost them nothing. Rightly or wrongly, it tends to prevent people taking the actions that they would normally take. I am not saying that this happened in this case. I am merely indicating what I think must be the basis of the question. I have had these expressions of concern put to me, some from within the Department of Education itself. I do not know that there is an easy solution to it. I have heard of the incident occurring in a school but I am not certain that it was the one named.

East Point Reserve

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Does the government intend to incorporate the land adjacent to the reserve formerly occupied by the Fannie Bay golf course into the East Point Reserve?

ANSWER

I ask the member to place the question on notice.

Discipline on School Buses

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is he aware of the discipline problem with some high schoolchildren on school buses? If so, would he consider some form of inspection or monitoring on school buses in the interests of social welfare and safety?

ANSWER

Again, it is one of those problems about which I have head stories but nothing specific. The complaints are not only about disciplinary problems but also about the school bus services themselves. It is very rare to be given a specific time and date of an incident which would allow me to follow the matter through. If the member could assist us by investigating, we might have some basis upon which to act. I point out that there is a limit to the resources of any government to constantly employ additional people and then deploy them in the field. The plain fact of the matter is that there are many buses carrying schoolchildren around the Northern Territory. If we were to provide a supervisor in every one of those, I would like the member to tell me from which classrooms we would extract the teachers. We clearly cannot afford it.

Internal Review of Community Health Service

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has the internal review of the community health service been completed and,

if so, is he in a position to pass any of the details of that review to the Assembly?

ANSWER

As I indicated at the last sittings, a departmental review was being carried out of the staff levels within the community health service, particularly in the Darwin region. A great deal of concern was expressed at the time that there would be arbitrary reductions in this area. Well that has not proven to be the case. I can advise members that a committee - chaired by Dr Reid, the Acting-Secretary of the department, and comprising Dr Wilson, the Matron of the rural section and the sisters in charge of the respective Community Health Centres in Darwin - has met on several occasions to assess and review staff levels within the Darwin area. It was decided by that committee that the community nursing service could afford to give up 2 sisters. These were transferred to the detoxification unit at the Darwin Hospital. We have departmental reviews taking place on all aspects of the medical services that we offer to the public. I believe that it is a continuing process. If members would like information on particular reviews, we are keen to provide that information. There is nothing to hide. We think it is prudent to review from time to time what we are doing. There is no doubt that if you lose interest in what the staff are doing, the staff will very quickly get into a very comfortable rut. It is human nature; we all do it.

Crocodile Tracks at Rapid Creek

Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Chief Minister's attention been drawn to concern within the community regarding crocodile tracks near the public park off Rapid Creek Road near Solomon Street? Has the Chief Minister asked the Conservation Commission to investigate the matter and made appropriate recommendations?

ANSWER

My attention has not been drawn specifically to the presence of crocodile tracks in the public park opposite Solomon Street, Rapid Creek. I know the park fairly well because I once represented that area. I am aware of the reported presence from time to time of crocodiles in Rapid Creek because I have 2 sons aged 9 and 7 who seem to find that Rapid Creek has a magnetic influence which draws them each afternoon. When I was a youngster in north Queensland, Mr Speaker, I used to spend all my spare time on the river there. I can understand why my sons and many other kids in the neighbourhood like to go down to play at Rapid Creek. I will certainly bring this reported sighting of tracks to the attention of the Conservation Commission if it is not already aware of it. I believe that it does pay attention to Rapid Creek from time to time. In fact, my wife keeps me fairly active in that regard.

Stott Terrace Alice Springs

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

When will the decision to resume or not to resume the land along Stott Terrace, Alice Springs, be made?

ANSWER

I doubt that I can give the honourable member a definitive answer. The Department of Transport and Works and the Department of Lands presented the Alice Springs town council with a proposal to provide a western access to the central business district of Alice Springs which, in our view, would have satisfactorily coped with known projections of traffic growth for quite a long time without the necessity for any acquisitions. At the moment, the town council disagrees with the best advice available to myself as Minister for Lands. I understand that the town council requires that the acquisition go ahead. It seems to be rather an odd thing to acquire business property at a cost of some \$1½m simply because of a gut feeling of a now retired engineer and without any traffic studies or in-depth thought about traffic flow difficulties in that town. On the best advice available, the problem certainly could be solved without the necessity for very expensive and disruptive acquisitions. Nonetheless - and this is the reason I say it is difficult to arrive at a conclusion as to when the decision will be made - the situation is now somewhat complicated by the significant problems posed by the Aboriginal people of the area through the Central Land Council and their other councils as to the existence or otherwise of sites of significance in the proposed Sadadeen industrial location.

If the claiming of sites of significance under the various pieces of legislation which govern them, particularly the federal act, is such as to prevent the establishment of an industrial subdivision in the east, then quite clearly the industrial subdivision will have to be in the west. Of course, we have no guarantee that sites of significance will not be found suddenly, or are not in existence, in the western alternative which is to the south-west of the existing abattoir site in Smith Street Alice Springs. As would be obvious to all members who have read the Alice Springs urban requirements study, that study holds the firm view that the new residential emphasis should be placed on the eastern sector of the town. If that is to happen and the industrial area is to be in the west, then there will be a cross-town traffic problem which does not currently exist. That would completely alter forward planning as to the requirements

of trunk routes which go through the central business district. The whole thing is somewhat up in the air at the moment. I am quite anxious that we overcome these difficulties as to the establishment of this very important industrial area in the east in consultation with the Aboriginal people.

The question of the continuation of Stott Terrace Road across the new bridge to the east is also on the mind of the member for Alice Springs. The point is that that road was to service the new east side, both the industrial and residential sectors. It is on the design list and we hope to have that road constructed through Stott Terrace in the 1981-82 financial year. Regrettably, that road also goes through the valley which is subject to claims of sites of significance by the Aboriginal people in that area. Thus, that whole trunk road is now in question in addition to the future siting of the industrial area. All of that has bearing on trunk road designs which go from east to west and right through the heart of the central business district. It is a real dilemma.

Tempe Downs Grazing Licence

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Is he aware that on or about 20 May 1981 a letter was sent under the hand of the Acting Assistant Director Lands Allocation Branch to Messrs Duncan and Gillman of Tempe Downs Pty Ltd stating that the Tempe Downs grazing licence over Northern Territory portion 1097 - already the subject of debate in this Assembly - would not be extended beyond 30 June of this year because it was subject to claim under the land rights act?

ANSWER

No.

Airlines of Northern Australia

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is there a formal agreement between the Northern Territory government and Airlines of Northern Australia setting out the obligations of the airline in respect to the provision of services and, if so, will he table the agreement in the Assembly?

ANSWER

At the moment, we are functioning under a letter of agreement with Ansett Transport Industries for the operation of Airlines of Northern Australia. The agreement is with the solicitors of the department and those of ATI. Until such time as the document is presented to me, I am unable to proceed with it through Cabinet for its ratification, neither am I in a position to give that undertaking to the member.

Outpatients Consultations

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

If it costs \$40 for an Outpatients consultation at Casuarina Hospital - something which a general practitioner could do for \$15 or less - why doesn't the government put general practitioners on contract to do the same work?

ANSWER

The matter of the government contracting this sort of work out to the private sector has not been addressed. Certainly I have not considered it at this stage. I am aware that in some places, such as New Zealand, it is a very common practice. Perhaps it would be a suitable practice in some parts of the Northern Territory. It does raise the question, however, of the number of services the government should provide in terms of primary health care. There is a body of opinion that believes that the government should play an important

role in providing Outpatients services of what we regard as a GP nature to the public at large. If this attitude prevails, our hospitals will continue to provide the service even at the greater cost because there will be people who will prefer not to go to a GP but rather to their local public health system for treatment. While it is an obvious conclusion for some people to draw that we should push as many people as possible onto the private practitioner to save the government money, I think a great deal more thought needs to be given to the matter before we take such a decision.

Cropping Development Committee

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Is it the intention of the minister to ensure that an appropriate fee is paid to farmers who are members of the Cropping Development Committee given its increased status as an advisory body to the minister?

ANSWER

The committee is a fairly loose and floating one which does provide advice to me through the departmental head. The position is that members are reimbursed for costs of travel, meals and so forth. As far as its legal status is concerned, it has none, and we have always looked at it in that light. It has not been the practice to pay a statutory sitting fee as we would pay members of tribunals and boards. The matter is constantly under review but I do not see that any move needs to be made at present.

Aboriginal Sacred Sites Authority

Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

The membership of the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Authority is all male even though female anthropologists are employed. What action is the government taking to ensure that Aboriginal women's sites, which should not be discussed by men, can receive appropriate consideration and protection?

ANSWER

I can only say that 7 members of the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Authority were nominated to the government by the relevant land councils. Therefore, I would suggest that the honourable member might correspond with the land councils rather than direct the question to me.

Overcrowding in NT Prisons

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What steps are being taken by the government to overcome the continued overcrowding in Northern Territory prisons?

ANSWER

There are a number of irons in the fire in regard to the overcrowding of Northern Territory prisons. I point out also that overcrowding in prisons is certainly not unique to the Northern Territory. Almost every state in Australia has a similar problem. At present, the government has decided to install 2 additional 20-man cell blocks at Berrimah Prison. These are expected to be completed about October this year and action is in hand to seek approval to recruit additional prison officers to man those additional cells.

In addition, the government has deferred the operation of a work release centre that is attached to the Berrimah Prison and has converted the facility temporarily to a women's prison. This does not mean that the government has abandoned plans to implement work release programs in the Northern Territory from the Berrimah Prison. We are examining alternative proposals while this work release centre is being used as a women's prison. We are examining work release programs which may be more cost effective than the facility at Berrimah although

it was in fact designed for that purpose.

The effect of the 2 moves - the finding of an alternative for work release and the building of the 20-man cell blocks for Berrimah - will increase the capacity of Berrimah Prison by about 50%. In addition, special funds have recently been allocated: \$90,000 to enable the relocation of ward 12 from the old Darwin Hospital to Gunn Point Prison Farm where it will be used to provide dormitory accommodation for between 40 and 50 additional minimum security prisoners. This step will alleviate some of the problems that we have at present and will assist us to use Gunn Point Prison Farm more effectively. It is a fairly substantial area which has been very successful in providing rehabilitative programs for low security prisoners in our system. The government believes that institutions like Gunn Point where prisoners themselves produce much of the food for prisons throughout the Northern Territory have been successful. It will continue to support expansion of the food production activities at Gunn Point. It is interesting to note that they are about to harvest or may have actually harvested a very fine crop of peanuts. It is hoped to realise some \$150,000 from that crop. The work has been done in consultation with the Department of Primary Production so that it has been carefully monitored. This procedure has been adopted so that the Territory in general can benefit from the information gained about small-scale agriculture.

Airlines of Northern Australia

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is Airlines of Northern Australia within its rights in ceasing to operate 2 Fokker flights daily between Alice Springs and Ayers Rock?

ANSWER

The answer is no. Last week, there were problems relating to the Alice Springs-Ayers Rock run with Airlines of Northern Australia. The government has informed ATI, the parent company, that the Northern Territory government insists that the levels of service as originally designated to them be maintained.

The honourable member opposite is aware of the negotiations that were carried out earlier this year with ATI and the particular schedules of service that it intended to operate. This was 14 flights to Ayers Rock from Alice Springs a week, maintenance of a Centre run and runs from Darwin to Gove and Groote Eylandt. It was unfortunate that that particular aircraft had some maintenance problems and the service was downgraded. At the same time, I believe that the loadings on that sector have not been great in the last couple of weeks and ATI has asked us to look at the numbers of passengers that it would be able to carry in the F27. We said that we would review it in 6 months time. It was unfortunate that Airlines of Northern Australia had that problem last week but we believe Sir Peter Abeles' assurance will enforce the ATI operation in that area.

Malathion Spraying

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

The minister will be aware of further public criticism of the use recently by Darwin city council of malathion against mosquitoes. Is the minister satisfied that no health hazard is posed by the use of malathion and will the practice continue?

ANSWER

The use of malathion is a matter of great debate not only in the Northern Territory but throughout Australia. The Department of Health takes its advice on the use of such chemicals from the National Health and Medical Advisory Council. This esteemed body of doctors and scientists gives advice on the suitability of using drugs and chemicals and a great many other matters. I am aware

that this matter is about to be discussed again at a national level but I cannot give the honourable member any information as to which way the discussion is likely to go. Until we receive some advice that the practices that we are currently involved in are not in the interests of public health, we will continue to implement them. If the honourable member has any information that would suggest that these practices are not particularly prudent and there is a better way of overcoming the problem, I would be pleased to hear from him.

Palm Leaf Beetle

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Until a decision has been made on whether or not to introduce a parasite to control the palm leaf beetle, will the government commit itself to continue a program to control this pest?

ANSWER

I think that commitment is fairly clear. We dropped the eradication program because the spread of the insect was too great for our resources. Action will still be taken to assist where possible.

Government Accounts in Alice Springs

Mr D.W. COLLINS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

What is the government doing to provide a payment service in Alice Springs to process government accounts?

ANSWER

The question of a centre in Alice Springs to process government accounts rather than doing this through Darwin has been under consideration for some time. I expect the approval will be given in the forthcoming budget for such a centre to be operated as an arm of the Treasury in Darwin. Whilst I do not have specific details as to when such a centre may operate, it is recognised that the issue of cheques for government accounts in Alice Springs would be speeded up somewhat even though there is a fairly efficient system of communication and transportation of government accounts up and down the Territory. Obviously, this does not replace the need to have someone on the ground in Alice Springs to whom people can refer in relation to the very large volume of government accounts that are handled. I would hope that such a facility will be established well before Christmas and will be connected to Treasury in Darwin through various computer links so that information can be obtained down there instantly.

Education Funding for Migrant and Refugee Children

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has the government received the \$115,000 in extra federal funding that the minister was seeking for the education of migrant and refugee children?

ANSWER

One would expect that I would not be so remiss as not to know the whereabouts of \$115,000 but I do not. I do not know the answer to that question. The funds are paid on a quarterly basis and, as such, it really is not relevant whether it is paid at the beginning or the end as long as the quarterly payment is made.

Douglas Daly Agricultural Development Scheme

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What is the purchase price for the area of land to be used for the Douglas Daly Agricultural development scheme?

ANSWER

The purchase price has not been finalised. We are still waiting for the valuers to come up with a price under the formula that was agreed upon. As soon as that price is available, we will certainly let it be known.

Douglas Daly Agricultural Development Scheme

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Has a final decision been made regarding the selection of the 2 farmers for the Douglas Daly area?

ANSWER

I understand that the final selections have been made. Those names have not been made available publicly because I believe that 1 of the farmers still has current commitments and he prefers that the matter be kept confidential for the time being. We will be able to make a statement in the very near future and give full details.

Poker Machines in Licensed Clubs

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Does the government at any time in the future intend to allow the introduction of poker machines in licensed clubs in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

It is impossible to give any definite commitment in this regard because one does not know what change in circumstances may occur. The government has never received any formal application for the installation of poker machines in licensed clubs in the Northern Territory. There have been 2 or 3 fairly vociferous club managers who see poker machines as some sort of solution to the financial problems of the licensed clubs. There is general agreement in the Territory community that there are rather too many clubs for the size of the population which they service. I strongly advocate some rationalisation of the licensed club situation. In Darwin there are a number of different categories of clubs that could probably very usefully amalgamate and provide much better services to their members with a much higher standard all round. Before any application from licensed clubs for poker machines could come forward, the clubs in question would need to canvass very carefully the views of their members. I do not believe it would be simply a decision that could be taken at the level of club manager or even a club committee. I know of several club managers who advocate the introduction of poker machines but I do not know of any particular club committee that does. I therefore have not really had to address myself to the problem at this time. I do not foresee any proliferation of poker machines in the Territory as advocated by the members for Fannie Bay and Nightcliff the other day. At present, it is certainly the government's intention to maintain the status quo.

Airlines of Northern Australia

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Does the new 2 airline agreement give the Ansett subsidiary, Airlines of Northern Australia, the right to withdraw from those Territory services which it considers to be uneconomical?

ANSWER

The answer is no. I would hate to go back to the drawing board to try to find another airline to operate in our regional areas. It seems that Airlines of Northern Australia have performed quite well so far. I believe that the northern region is satisfied with the level of service that has been provided to it and that the people of Tennant Creek, Katherine and Alice Springs are happy

with the services of Airlines of Northern Australia. There is one blot on its copybook: the early stages of the Alice Springs-Ayers Rock run. I was assured by Sir Peter Abeles that it was not likely to happen again and I must believe him.

Four local charter operators have been given the work around the regional areas of Arnhem Land. The communities are satisfied with the arrangements that have been made. In fact, we have received letters of praise for the services now being provided. Up until about 6 months ago, there were complaints from Arnhem Land regarding the air services that were provided to those regions. I believe that, with the local charter operators and Airlines of Northern Australia, the airline needs of the Territory are being served.

Stock on Rural Roads

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In view of the increased sightings of stock on rural roads, about which I have written to him recently, has he initiated discussions with officers of the Department of Community Development regarding the establishment of a large animal pound, even if only on an ad hoc basis?

ANSWER

I am very aware of complaints about stock wandering onto rural roads on the outskirts of Darwin and of the recent tragic death of a motor-cyclist who collided with one such animal. I am aware also that at present there are no pens suitable for holding large animals in a formal sense in the rural area. I have asked the department to investigate the full extent of the problem in the rural area and to recommend possible solutions. If the problem is that widespread one solution could be the establishment of several pounds. As she has expressed a very genuine concern in this area, I shall undertake to keep the member informed of advice from the department. It is, however, a problem that needs to be examined carefully because it should be resolved on a long-term basis and not simply by an action designed to get the odd stray animal out of the way for the time being. The problem involves a number of areas aside from the collection of stray stock. I will keep the member informed on the matter.

Green Paper on Education

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Would he advise the Assembly of the public response to the Green Paper on education?

ANSWER

The way that the question is worded, one would expect that I can answer in terms of the number of people who have responded. I certainly cannot. If the member refers to whether or not I found the response to be satisfactory, I dealt with that earlier in this sittings. The honourable member attended an education function where the Green Paper was discussed and he would be well aware of the success of that particular gathering. The public meeting held in Katherine to discuss the Green Paper on education was one of the best attended public meetings seen in Katherine apart from those on land rights. The public meeting which was held to discuss the education bill some years ago attracted only 2 members of the public. Both of those were CLP people who wanted to talk to me about a decision I had made relating to land. Some 40 people turned up in the area of Katherine to discuss the Green Paper. A committee of the representatives of the department, the Teachers Federation and parent bodies has been set up to examine written submissions on the Green Paper and report back to me in due course. The idea has been very successful; it certainly has people thinking about the issues of education in the Northern Territory, particularly the future of upper primary and secondary education.

Mining Display

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is the minister aware of correspondence between the Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and the Director of the Museums and Art Galleries Board with reference to an outdoor mining display adjacent to the Museums and Art Gallery complex? If he is, can he inform me why the proposal put forward by the institute is not being proceeded with?

ANSWER

I am aware of the correspondence and, at this stage, can say that I have to examine the matter further to decide on the reasonableness or otherwise of the decision taken by the Museums and Art Galleries Board not to establish this mining display. I believe the display involved pieces of equipment which would be established in such a way that it could be workable for demonstration purposes. The subject came to my attention only recently and I have not had time to look at it closely. I do not regard the matter as having been closed. However, when one talks about the style, shape and placement of heavy machinery as an external exhibit to the museum, quite clearly such a display would have to be done in a tasteful and acceptable manner. I would not like to pass judgment on the matter until I have undertaken further investigation.

Morgan Poll on Poker Machines

Mrs O'NEIL to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Did the Northern Territory government commission the Morgan poll on poker machines on which the government based its new poker machine policy and, if not, who did commission the survey?

ANSWER

The government commissioned a poll on matters relating to gambling and gaming in the Northern Territory through the Racing and Gaming Commission.

Bus Timetables

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In the interest of the convenience of the travelling public in the rural area, why can't government bus drivers carry copies of bus timetables applying to the rural area to distribute on request?

ANSWER

As far as I am aware, bus drivers normally carry timetables for their particular route. Probably one of the reasons why they do not have a full stock of every timetable, not only for rural areas but for other areas, is the amount of paperwork that bus drivers are asked to do today. I believe that timetables are available at the bus terminal in the city area and they are also available at the Coolalinga and Humpty Doo stores.

Steps on Buses

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has the minister received complaints that the first step on the new buses is too high for elderly or infirm people to manage adequately? If he has received such complaints, is he endeavouring to see that a drop step will be provided so that they can mount the buses without difficulty?

ANSWER

I will have the matter investigated.

Child Care in Katherine

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Elsey. Can the minister outline the steps taken by his department to meet the need for child care in Katherine?

ANSWER

Following the closure of an illegal child care centre in Katherine last year after an unfortunate accident, the Katherine corporation applied for funds from the Department of Social Security office of child care to employ a children's services research and development officer for a 6-month period to examine the question of child care needs in Katherine. A grant of \$10,000 has been approved and the research is now being undertaken. The immediate needs for the children of meatworkers in Katherine have been temporarily met by the shared use of O'Keefe House, a departmental family home, by the Homemakers Service and the Northmeat Child Care Cooperative. The establishment of permanent facilities in Katherine is under consideration by these groups and no doubt a report by the person undertaking the study of child care needs in Katherine will make recommendations on solutions to the problem in the future.

Horticulture in the Northern Territory

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Given the importance of the horticultural industry to the Northern Territory and the high possibility of the commercial success of such an industry, can the minister inform the Assembly when the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority will commence work on the required infrastructure for this industry in the Territory?

ANSWER

The honourable member will be aware that at this stage the ADMA is basically looking at cropping as a priority. Some work is being undertaken with horticultural projects but, in the main, the department will be the sponsor for horticultural development in the Northern Territory. In that regard, it has boosted its staff to 8 and has recruited rather successfully interstate. I believe that there is much potential for horticultural development here. In recent times, we have had Mr Vennard, a very successful mango grower from Bowen, over here. I understand that he is looking to take up permanent residence in the Northern Territory if he can obtain a suitable block of land for his purposes.

Funding for Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What indication has the government received as to the extent of future financial support from the federal government for the ADMA scheme?

ANSWER

The question has not been considered recently. I cannot remember the last answer we gave the member on long-term finance. Obviously, the long-term financing of the ADMA scheme will come under scrutiny in terms of the development of the project farms. It is in this context that the Commonwealth is assessing the program to date.

Cultural Centre in Alice Springs

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What steps have been taken to implement the proposal for the establishment of a cultural centre in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

The Araluen Arts and Cultural Trust established by the government under an act of this Assembly is constituted to construct a proposed multi-purpose art centre in Alice Springs. With funds provided by this government over the past 2 years, it has engaged a consultant to conduct a feasibility study and prepare a complete design brief for an Araluen cultural facility. The report that has been received recommends the construction of a theatre, art and craft studios and galleries. The government has recently allocated a further \$70,000 to the Araluen Trust which is preparing detailed planning and cost estimates for the entire project in association with the Department of Transport and Works. I hope that when those are available, they will include plans and a model of the proposed facility for display in Alice Springs so that public comment can be considered.

Racing and Gaming Commission Poll

Mr BELL to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

I preface my question by drawing the attention of honourable members to the questions in the poll instituted by the Racing and Gaming Commission on whether poker machines in casinos should be legal or illegal? Will the Treasurer make public the other questions in this poll?

ANSWER

No.

Education for Refugee Children

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Recently there has been an influx of refugee children into the Northern Territory. Is the minister able to inform me if adequate educational provision is being made for these children and, if so, is this placing other programs in jeopardy?

ANSWER

The answer is yes and no in that order. The member may not be aware that early last week I issued a detailed press statement on this matter. I also dealt with it at some length at question time last week. I refer my colleague to those sources rather than waste the time of the Assembly.

Financial Assistance to the Farming Community

Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

When will the government announce revised plans for financial assistance to the farming community and does it intend to have discussions with all interested parties before a final decision on the most appropriate means of financial assistance is made?

ANSWER

Rural financing is a very serious matter. The Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority has prepared a report on rural finance in the Northern Territory. We see this as one of the most important areas of crop and agricultural development in the Territory. We will obtain views from all and sundry. The Territory Development Corporation, the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority and the Cropping Development Committee have complementary roles in this area.

Toilets at Civic Centre Bus Terminal

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Who has responsibility for the maintenance and cleaning of toilets at Darwin's main bus stop at the Civic Centre?

ANSWER

I presume the honourable member has asked me this question because one of our local identities was locked up in this particular toilet for a few hours recently and no one knew she was there. She was asleep presumably. In answer to the honourable member's question, the Department of Transport and Works has responsibility for cleaning the toilets and if the honourable member has any problems or knows of any happenings occurring there that should not be occurring, I will have them investigated.

Recreation Lake in Alice Springs

Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to a statement in the Northern Territory News that the Chief Minister is to reopen negotiations with the Central Land Council on the siting of the recreation lake in Alice Springs. Can he tell the Assembly whether the Northern Territory government still wishes to site the lake north of the town in the position that was unacceptable to the Central Land Council or are other sites to be investigated as suggested by the land council?

ANSWER

The government still wishes to site the lake to the north of the town. Originally, the government had the consent of the Central Land Council for the siting of the recreation lake in that area and, subsequently, that consent was withdrawn before other sites were investigated. I believe that there is only one other feasible site which is some 80 miles from Alice Springs. In my opinion, it is too far from the town to represent a facility of which the townspeople could avail themselves readily. I have instructed officers of my department in the Aboriginal Liaison Unit and officers in the Department of Lands to reopen negotiations with the Central Land Council to see if there is any way around the impasse. Yes, it is certainly the government's wish, if at all possible, to proceed with the construction of the dam which will create the lake to the north of Alice Springs.

Needs of Aged Persons

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The issue of the needs of aged persons and the co-ordination of services to aged persons was raised in a report from the Board of Inquiry into Welfare in the Northern Territory. What action has been taken or is likely to be taken by the government in regard to aged persons as a result of that inquiry?

ANSWER

The needs of aged persons is a matter in which the Northern Territory government has a strong commitment. The Pensioner Concession Scheme, although providing services to a wider group than just aged pensioners, provides important concession and rebates to the elderly of the Northern Territory. However, the government recognises that an extensive examination needs to be made of the requirements of aged persons in the Territory and, just as importantly, a congruent examination of the most effective and efficient delivery of services and resources to the aged. Therefore, the government commissioned a survey of aged persons' needs and services which began in April 1980. An officer, Ms Ann Brennan, who is renowned as a key Australian expert in relation to aged persons, was seconded from the Department of Social Security to conduct the survey and prepare the report.

Extensive discussions and consultation have been held with all related Northern Territory and Commonwealth departments and interested individuals and organisations throughout the Northern Territory. The first draft of the report has been completed and is being examined by Northern Territory government departments. It will be similar in format to the review of handicap services in the Northern Territory and the process of consideration of the report will also be similar to that utilised in relation to that review. Therefore, consideration of the report and action emanating from it will be subject to widespread departmental and community input before the report is considered by the government as to its implementation or otherwise.

Lease of Carpentaria College

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

The legal tenants of Carpentaria College have been issued with notices by

the Lands Branch determining their lease. As there are no immediate plans for either demolition or occupancy of the building by any other group, could the honourable minister explain why these notices have been issued and undertake to review them?

ANSWER

It is one of those questions that are the most difficult to address one's mind to, particularly at a time when we all recognise there is not exactly an abundance of premises available in Darwin for the type of people who occupy that sort of accommodation. The member says that the tenants are legal tenants and that is quite correct. The termination of the lease is equally legal. I do not think anyone is disputing that. The whole purpose of the exercise is to make the building safe. On the best advice available to me, the people who are living there do so at some peril. It is for that reason principally that the decision was taken.

The people have been represented by legal counsel through the Australian Legal Aid Service and I understand that, for some reason or other, there has been a breakdown in communication through that service to them. When the extension was granted, I was under the impression that that was with the concurrence of the people presently occupying the premises. It was an agreement entered into between my office and their legal representatives. I have had no contact that I am aware of from any of the occupants of those buildings, either via their solicitors or personally through them, requesting a change. It seems that the honourable member for Nightcliff is now a substitute for the legal representative of the occupants. In accordance with normal practice, any representation made by the people, either directly or through their solicitors, naturally would be looked at in the same manner as would an application by anyone else for accommodation. I cannot add to that until such time as I receive an application or a submission.

Queensland Coal for Power-station

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has the government negotiated coal contracts with Queensland coal suppliers to meet the demands of Darwin's new power-station?

ANSWER

I think it would be fair to say that negotiations and discussions with quite a few parties in Queensland have been under way for some time. For the information of honourable members, about 12 months ago, I had the opportunity to discuss with the former Queensland Minister for Mines and Energy, Mr Camm, and his electricity trust head, the possibility of the Queensland government supplying, through its electricity commission, coal for use in the Northern Territory. I am also aware that NTEC and officers of the Energy Division have been holding talks with various suppliers of coal in Queensland to ascertain what tonnages could be supplied, when they would be available and what price we would be looking at in the future for the supply of coal for our new power-station.

I would make the point that the most important factor for us to consider in the purchase of coal is not necessarily the price but the quality of the coal. We are looking for the best grade of coal that we can get to use in a power-station that we hope will be one of the most efficient coal burners yet produced in the world. I think members will appreciate that coal technology is changing drastically and will continue to change as prices for oil and coal soar. People who are using a product such as coal are now looking for the best burning and heat qualities that they can get from that product. We will be doing the same thing. While we may have several people to talk to about the supply of coal, an important criterion that we have to consider is the quality of coal that is available to us and the capacity of a particular supplier to provide it for the Northern Territory. I am not sure whether members appreciate that the greatest

problem which will confront the coal industry in the Northern Territory in the next 10 years will be providing the amount of coal that the world wishes to burn. We have coal in the ground. Our difficulty is the infrastructure of getting it to the seaboard and then into ships. Very clearly there is a great problem in this and other countries: to provide the infrastructure in the time available. The Northern Territory is no different. We will have to fit in with the coal-miners, railways and port facilities. That is another aspect that NTEC and the government will have to consider in the course of time. I shall be happy to brief the member from time to time on what is happening in this particular area.

Production Bore at Coastal Plains Research Station

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Why was the cost of a production bore at the Coastal Plains Research Station taken off the current estimates in view of the necessity of his independent water supply for the continued success of the experimental, commercial and horticultural program out there?

ANSWER

I am not aware that the item has been taken off the estimates. I understand that it is a very important item and it is hoped that the supply of water at this place can be funded in the forthcoming budget. Obviously, I would not wish to pre-empt what the Treasurer might say later.

Construction of Non-airconditioned Schools

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

There seems to be some confusion in the public mind as to the government's policy on constructing schools which will not be supplied with airconditioning. Could he advise the Assembly exactly what are the department's plans?

ANSWER

The question is almost impossible to answer in this format. I would be happy to supply the honourable member with a detailed written answer because there is quite a lot implied in it. Basically, it is a matter of funds available for education and the need to maximise the sensible use of those funds. We are all very much aware of the enormous cost of provision of electricity for air-conditioning. The aim is the best utilisation of the taxpayer's dollar to achieve the objective of educating children. Certainly the building should be designed in a manner that maximises the use of natural cooling to ensure adequate cross-ventilation so that the inside temperature of the classroom will be no hotter than the ambient temperature. By using ventilation techniques, a breeze can be created artificially by a venturi effect because warm air has the habit of floating upward. If these techniques are used in architectural design, the cooling effect of the moving air takes over. The best advice that we have from an architect is that this has been successfully achieved in the buildings proposed for Karama, Leanyer and Humpty Doo schools.

Geothermal Resources in NT

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has a decision been reached on the arrangements by which exploration for geothermal resources in the Northern Territory might be undertaken?

ANSWER

The Department of Mines and Energy is still assessing the best way we might go about accommodating people involved in geothermal exploration. It is not simply a matter of geothermal exploration which is really regional geology using alternative techniques to those we are using now, such as satellite and infrared detection. It raises the question of whether we should be encouraging our

mining companies also to move into regional exploration because these 2 things are quite similar in their principle and their aim. We are most interested and are trying to encourage the concept of geothermal energy detection in the Northern Territory because, though it has not been proved, it is something that could be of vital use in our particular environment. I would hope that, before the end of the year, I will have a proposal for the Assembly that will accommodate geothermal exploration and the possibility of regional exploration which will have a great deal of appeal to many companies.

Northumberland Insurance Company

Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Regarding the Northumberland Insurance Company collapse, has he been able to get the Commonwealth to agree to contribute towards the claims that are still the subject of settlement? When I asked the question at the last sittings, he said he was negotiating with the Commonwealth to that effect.

ANSWER

I do not have information to hand, I will seek it and, if possible, provide an answer during the course of this day.

Youth Sport and Recreation Directory

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for SPORT and RECREATION

I understand that there is a youth, sport and recreation directory being compiled. Can the minister advise what stage the preparation has reached?

ANSWER

I believe that the directory is almost compiled. It will include the names and addresses of the presidents of the various associations and their involvement in particular sport and community activities. It is ready to go to the printer. We will be circulating it to organisations without cost. The department hopes to upgrade that directory each year.

Tuberculosis and Brucellosis Eradication

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

I ask the question on behalf of the honourable member for Elsey. Who will pay for the eradication of tuberculosis and brucellosis in feral animals on the 28% of Northern Territory land owned by Aborigines?

ANSWER

The government's attitude would be that there will be general funding through the budget to pursue the eradication of tuberculosis and brucellosis. There are encouragements being provided by the federal government, such as tax concessions, and anyone who is running stock should be able to avail himself of that. That program will be complementary to the central effort of the scheme being undertaken through my department.

Sydney Legal Firm and NT Government Work

Mr ISAACS to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware that the Chairman of the Northern Territory Development Corporation has recently had discussions with principals of a major Sydney legal firm with a view to that firm establishing an office in Darwin and doing the more complex government legal work? If he is aware, can he explain why the Department of Law is not doing the work? If he is not aware, can he have the matter investigated and report later?

ANSWER

I ask that he place the question on notice. However, I will comment on his reference to the Department of Law not doing all the Territory Development Corporation's legal work. It has been arranged in some cases for a number of authorities of the government to have at least some of their legal work done by the private sector. There are some classes of work where it has been requested that they continue to use the Department of Law but, as far as commercial-type activities are concerned, the authorities are free to use the private sector.

Instruction to Authorities Concerning Solicitors

Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

When granted access to the private sector for their legal work, are authorities instructed or advised to use local solicitors rather than interstate solicitors?

ANSWER

If the Leader of the Opposition wants to pursue the questioning of government policy in relation to the use of legal firms and the Department of Law, such questions should be addressed to the Attorney-General whose portfolio covers that area.

Capital Works Subsidy

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for YOUTH SPORT and RECREATION

When will a 3-to-1 subsidy for use in capital works be implemented?

ANSWER

Unfortunately, I cannot provide him with a definite date when this particular scheme will be implemented. However, the information I can provide to him is that the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation is providing additional information that I have requested. I was not happy with the first draft regarding the proposal because it was not explicit enough. When the department has provided me with information, I shall take it to Cabinet for its approval regarding implementation of the subsidy.

Instruction to Authorities Concerning Solicitors

Mr ISAACS to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

With regard to those statutory authorities who are given approval to use private firms for their legal work as opposed to the Department of Law, are those statutory authorities advised or recommended that they should use local legal firms rather than interstate legal firms?

ANSWER

Those authorities which have the approval of government to engage private practitioners generally speaking have clearance only to engage them in relation to work of a commercial nature. Any work of a policy nature is still referred to the Department of Law. These statutory authorities are encouraged in fact to use private firms of legal practitioners which are locally based. I believe that by and large they have always done so. In the law, as in every other profession and field of endeavour, there are areas of expertise where the local practitioners are not sufficiently forward in the field and advice is needed. In some of the transactions in which the government becomes involved from time to time, there are many complications and, obviously, it is necessary for the Department of Law itself to engage specialist legal advice from outside the Territory. For instance, the Department of Law engages a southern Queen's Counsel to represent the Northern Territory in national wage cases. We have engaged, through the Department of Law, a Sydney firm to represent us from time to time in things such as the conference convened by the Chairman of the Con-

ciliation and Arbitration Commission, Sir John Moore. In relation to the original agreement with Federal Hotels on casinos, the Department of Law employed its own resources through the Crown Solicitor and used a Sydney firm which, I think, was either Freehill Hollingdale and Page or a firm that is currently represented in Darwin by the former Crown Solicitor, Abbott Tout Creer and Wilkinson.

I happen to know something of the question that the honourable the Leader of the Opposition asked of my colleague the Treasurer earlier. I was informed in a circuitous fashion that another large national firm, Allen Allen and Hemsley, has thoughts of establishing an office in Darwin. I think it is Allen Allen and Hemsley; if it is not Allen Allen and Hemsley, it is Stephen Jacques and Stephen. I see the establishment of offices by these firms in the Territory as a sign of the growth and advancement of this Territory. Recently, we saw Perth and Sydney firms establishing in Singapore. I welcome the Sydney firms that want to establish in Darwin as I welcomed firms from Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide. It has never caused a ripple within the legal profession because I believe that these people do not establish here unless there is sufficient work to go around. They bring a certain expertise which improves the professional qualities of the local legal profession. In my experience, the legal profession in Darwin has never believed in a local parochial sense that it has a monopoly on wisdom. We have brought to the Territory on many occasions outstanding counsel to plead before the Territory bar when it has been necessary and other people with wisdom and expertise in commercial fields to assist clients where required.

One might ask what this is doing for the Department of Law. It has been the policy of this government - and I think it has been plainly displayed - that it wanted to bring the Department of Law to a high professional standard. The government has sought to engage people, from the Solicitor-General down, who are of high professional capacity. As I understand it, the Department of Law is expanding, not in a spectacular way perhaps, but certainly there is continuing growth within the professional side of the department. I do not see the influx of firms from other parts of Australia as being anything but beneficial to the legal profession, anything but beneficial to the government and lastly but most importantly, beneficial to the people of the Northern Territory. I can certainly say that to my knowledge no inducement to Allen Allen and Hemsley, or any other firm, has ever been extended to persuade them to establish in Darwin.

Aboriginal Teaching Assistants

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has the government given any further consideration to the problem of replacing Aboriginal teaching assistants who are going to Batchelor College?

ANSWER

Indeed we have. We are exploring every possible avenue to try and overcome the problem. It is a dilemma. We set up a program, which the member recognised as being a very good program, and a very extensive new facility at Batchelor. The moment we tried to implement the actual course work, we triggered off difficulties elsewhere. We recognise that. We do not believe that it is within the capacity of the Northern Territory government to go into massive training exercise of this sort without assistance from the Commonwealth. We are making approaches through the Department of Employment and Youth Affairs, through the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and through the various schemes which are available for adult training and adult improvement and looking at avenues available to us to overcome as far as possible any shortages which might exist as a result of the training program at Batchelor. I would say, in fairness, that all Aboriginal schools are staffed vastly better than any European school. Notwithstanding the absence of Aboriginal teaching assistants at Batchelor, those schools still remain better staffed than any other schools in the Northern Territory.

Government Statistician

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to TREASURER and MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Does the Northern Territory government employ a statistician and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

I am used to 'if not, why not questions' coming from the other side of the Assembly, not my own. We do not have a statutory position of government statistician but we do have a nominal appointment in the Department of Treasury. By arrangement with the Commonwealth, we use its statistician to collect and collate data for the Northern Territory as is required by our government. To date, the system has worked quite well. The Commonwealth statistician has responded to the requirements of the Territory government and has a range of programs for collecting data which was not collected prior to self-government. This information is absolutely vital to government. To continue to operate, a very reliable and regular collection of statistics is needed. If the honourable member feels that useful information of a statistical nature from time to time is not available, I would be pleased to hear from her or any other member on this matter. We could then examine the question of whether additional statistics should be collected, or indeed collated from existing collections, for the use of members and the community generally.

Aboriginal Health Worker Training Programs

Mr BELL to MINISTER for HEALTH

In the light of the federal health cuts, will he guarantee that Aboriginal health worker training programs will be maintained at the current level of funding?

ANSWER

The member is asking for a commitment that needs to be considered as part of the full budget of the Northern Territory. I would make this point to the member. The Aboriginal health worker training program was established by the Commonwealth some 5 years ago by the now officers of the Northern Territory Department of Health. I believe the program is an excellent one. Since self-government, we have increased activity in this area, not just in terms of numbers and manpower by the introduction of initiatives such as the health worker training program for dental work. I cannot give the honourable member a promise that expansion will go on ad infinitum in this area, but he can rest assured that the government is sympathetic towards the program. We fund it out of our health resources, as has been done in the past, and will continue to do so at a level we believe we can afford. I think this is the responsible way to approach it.

I make the point that we do not receive a special consideration from the Commonwealth government in this particular regard. It is an initiative that we wish to continue. No state has a similar program and no other state receives any special consideration from the federal government for conducting such a program. I believe it is one of the great initiatives of the 1970s. I hope the honourable member will appreciate that the government has a very sympathetic attitude towards the program and will endeavour to see that it is always maintained at a maximum level.

Northern Territory Port Authority

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he indicate when he will be making appointments to the present vacancies on the Northern Territory Port Authority?

ANSWER

In the near future.

Darwin Power-station

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has the site of Darwin's proposed coal-fired power-station yet been determined?

ANSWER

If the honourable member reads the paper I circulated the other day, she will find the answer there.

Water Reticulation in Rural Area

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will the Water Division have a rational plan of water development, including reticulation, for the rural area?

ANSWER

The department has already considered the matter. It does not intend formulating a water development plan for the entire Darwin rural area because of the widely dispersed population in the area. Nevertheless, it believes it is technically feasible to reticulate water throughout the rural area and a plan will be drawn up.

Emergency Accommodation

Mr BELL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I preface my question to the Minister for Lands and Housing by drawing his attention to a report in the Centralian Advocate dated 29 May 1980 in which he announced government plans to make available emergency accommodation in 4 Territory hostels. What is the progress on the plans announced last year?

ANSWER

Negotiations are still proceeding with the people who have taken up contractual leases in respect of those properties. We have come unglued following the Lynch committee's activities which resulted in the virtual dissolution of the Commonwealth hospitality and accommodation service and put us pretty well back to square one.

Darwin Power-station

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Will he inform the Assembly whether a site for the Darwin coal-fired power-station has yet been determined?

ANSWER

I would advise here that the Electricity Commission has commissioned Merz and McLellan to do final evaluations of 4 sites in the immediate Darwin area for the provision of the power-station. I do not have in my head the particular riding instructions given by NTEC to Merz and McLellan. I can say that 3 of the sites are Cox Peninsula, Quarantine Island and East Arm. I cannot recall the fourth one. There is a fair amount of work to be done by the consultants on these sites before a final proposal is made to Cabinet.

Unattended Children at Casuarina Shopping Centre

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is the minister aware of the problem of young children wandering around the Casuarina Shopping Centre all day having been left there by their parents in the morning? If he is aware of the problem, what are the officers of the Department of Community Development doing about it.

ANSWER

An allegation has been brought to my attention recently that some irresponsible parents in Darwin have adopted a practice - and I repeat it is an allegation at this stage - of dropping their children at Casuarina Shopping Centre in the morning and using the place as an informal child-minding centre until late in the afternoon. I have reported this matter to the director of child care in my department and asked if he could investigate and make recommendations to the government on the seriousness of the alleged problem and possible measures that the government might consider taking. If such allegations are true and the children involved are young, it is a most serious situation and any parents who undertake this sort of activity can only be regarded as irresponsible.

Accreditation of BA Degree at Darwin Community College

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Does the Darwin Community College intend to seek again accreditation for its degree of batchelor of arts and, if so, when?

ANSWER

I am not certain to what extent the Darwin Community College has revamped its proposals. I know that quite a lot of work has been done on the type of staff required, course materials required, library facilities and so on. I believe that there is some difficulty as a result of the federal government's current attitude to funding courses. There is a degree of difficulty in persuading the Tertiary Education Commission, given those guidelines, that this course, no matter how structured, will be a sufficiently vocationally-weighted BA to receive Commonwealth funding. We will have to have the course accredited first and address ourselves to the question of funding later. I am most anxious for the course to be accredited nationally and then we will address out ourselves energetically to providing the funds to conduct it.

Security of Patient's Belongings

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

What arrangements are made to ensure the security of the belongings of hospital patients, for example psychiatric and geriatric patients, who are unable to care for themselves?

ANSWER

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

NT Remuneration Tribunal

Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Given that Norm Campbell has recently been appointed to the Northern Territory's Remuneration Tribunal, can the Chief Minister inform the Assembly whether he has given Mr Campbell a reference of parliamentary salaries, allowances and conditions?

ANSWER

I have not at this stage given any reference to Mr Campbell or signed any document directing him to do anything. In fact, at this moment, I am uncertain of my powers under the Remuneration Tribunal Act. Certainly Mr Campbell's appointment has been made with a view to conducting a review of parliamentary salaries and the salaries of other office holders who come within the purview of the tribunal. I will take up with the Director-General of my department the administrative steps needed to enable the inquiry to commence in view of the fact that the Leader of the Opposition apparently attaches some urgency to it.

MacDonnell Ranges National Park

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

I preface my question by drawing his attention to an article in the Centralian Advocate of 5 June 1980 in which he announced the proposed MacDonnell Ranges National Park. When will the MacDonnell Ranges National Park, announced with much publicity a few days before the Northern Territory elections last year, be gazetted?

ANSWER

I cannot say when the park will be gazetted. I know that the Conservation Commission is investigating this matter. As the member has given no forewarning of this question, I ask him to place it on notice.

Negotiations for Local Government in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware of any negotiations between the federal government, Nabalco and the traditional owners of the Gove Peninsula for local government in Nhulunbuy and, if so, at what stage are the negotiations?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any negotiations between the federal government, Nabalco and the traditional owners in respect of local government in Nhulunbuy, but it would be misleading to sit down having said simply that. There have been negotiations between the Northern Territory government and Nabalco. I believe there have been negotiations between the Northern Territory government, Nabalco, the federal government and the traditional owners at some stage. Those are the 4 parties involved. I believe that local government has been the subject of discussion at certain stages but I do not think that the question of local government has been raised at all with the federal government, although that is my understanding only, not my absolute commitment.

Regulations under Education Act

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

When will regulations be introduced under the Education Act?

ANSWER

I speak from memory but I think the projected target date is about August.

Negotiations for Local Government in Nhulunbuy

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

At what stage are the negotiations between the Northern Territory government, Nabalco, the traditional owners and the federal government?

ANSWER

The negotiations are at a very early stage. They have not gone very far at all. The Northern Territory government could gear-up for the introduction of local government in Nhulunbuy within 6 months provided that the various preconditions were met. I do not think the status of the land on which Nhulunbuy is situated has any effect on the town gaining local government status. Obviously the negotiations have to proceed with Nabalco and, as a matter of courtesy, with the traditional owners or the Northern Land Council because I do not think local government impacts on the status of the land there. However, I believe that there is a certain caution on the part of the company about local government. For instance, there are negotiations over the question of whether the company would continue to subsidise the housing of the employees of Nabalco as it does at present. I understand they enjoy what amounts to free housing with no rates,

electricity or other taxes or charges. Whether Nabalco would make a lump sum payment in lieu of rates and other local government charges direct to the local government authority, were it to be established in Nhulunbuy, would be of primary consideration. Obviously, there would be the matter of transfer of assets from the company to the local government authority. Certainly, there is goodwill on the side of the Northern Territory government and a desire which has been expressed many times to bring local government to Nhulunbuy. I believe too that there is goodwill on the part of the company, but there is a natural caution about moving from a position that it is familiar with to one which holds, as it sees it, many uncertainties. I believe that the negotiations may well take some time but I believe that the Northern Territory government could probably introduce local government into Nhulunbuy within 6 months of the satisfactory conclusion of these negotiations.

Mr ROBERTSON (Education)(by leave): As members will be aware, the Treasurer and Minister for Industrial Development and Minister for Community Development is absent chairing the Conference of Local Government Ministers. Any questions which normally would be directed to him may be directed to the Chief Minister who will do this humble best.

Tax-sharing Arrangements

Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What effect, if any, will the Grants Commission recommendation released yesterday on tax-sharing arrangements between the states and the federal government have on federal government/Territory relationship?

ANSWER

I have not yet seen a copy of the relativities review report by the Grants Commission. I believe that a copy is on its way to the Northern Territory. Members will appreciate that it is a review of the relativities operating between the states. As such, I understand that it has no effect whatsoever on the Northern Territory's present position which is secured by the Memorandum of Understanding. Our base figure for general revenue funding will continue to be escalated in accordance with the formula provided in section 23 of that document. It could be that, in its applications to the Grants Commission, should they become necessary at any time, the relativities situation could impact on the Northern Territory, but my advice from the Treasury is that it foresees no impact on the Northern Territory as a result of this particular study. However, that statement is made without reading the document.

Housing Commission Blocks

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What guidelines does the Housing Commission use when determining whether or not a block of land is suitable for medium-density housing? Is there a minimum size for blocks to be used for this purpose?

ANSWER

The Housing Commission does not determine which blocks are suitable for R2 multiple and medium-density development. That is a matter for the Planning Authority. There are set plot ratios which govern whether or not one can build medium density on any given block of land. Members will be aware that there is an idea floated at the moment through the Town Planning Authority of which, incidentally, I was unaware as the Planning Authority is completely independent of government. The number of units which can be built on a given area of land is determined under those guidelines and not by the Housing Commission.

Means Tests for Public Hospitals

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is he in a position to advise the Assembly yet if the government intends to introduce a means test so far as public hospitals are concerned in the Northern Territory. If so, will it be based on the same levels as recommended by the federal government?

ANSWER

So far as the department and the government are involved, the criteria for establishing whether people are disadvantaged are those that have been set down by the Commonwealth. This is not terribly satisfactory as far as we are concerned. If the Northern Territory wishes to make a case for additional funds because of a weakness that we have perceived in the Commonwealth's attitude, it would not be in our interest to establish other guidelines and have other attitudes towards the criteria for working out who is disadvantaged and how they should be helped.

I am not saying that there should not be some degree of compassion in this matter but, if we wish to argue a case with the Commonwealth for additional funds, we have to do it on sound grounds. It has struck the ground rules; we will play the game by the ground rules and then demonstrate to it how very wrong it was.

Bagot Road Flyover

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What is the current estimated cost of the construction of the Bagot Road flyover and what was the original estimate?

ANSWER

I am unable to provide that information to the honourable member. I will provide it later today.

Tennant Creek Police Station

Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

Will the Chief Minister investigate the level of manning in the Tennant Creek Police Station in the light of some officers at the station recently being required to work 3 successive shifts?

ANSWER

Yes.

Northumberland Insurance Company

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise yet whether the Commonwealth will contribute towards the claims which are still the subject of settlement regarding Northumberland Insurance Company. The honourable Treasurer undertook to provide a reply at this sittings.

ANSWER

I do not think so. However, I can find the answer without much delay and I will let the honourable member know today. I trust that she will excuse my colleague, the Treasurer. We sat until fairly late yesterday and he had to dash off immediately to a function which he was to host for the visiting Local Government Ministers from all around Australia and New Zealand. He is chairing that meeting at the Civic Centre today.

Alice Springs Industrial Area

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

The minister is well aware that there is a proposal for an industrial area to be set up in the east side of Alice Springs and that the prevailing winds in Alice Springs blow from the east. What action is being taken to prevent any industrial odours coming across the residential area?

ANSWER

The proposed industrial area for that location is not of a noxious nature. It is a service industry site. It is the same as other light industrial areas around Alice Springs, none of which have ever given rise to complaints of that nature.

Lock-ups at Katherine and Tennant Creek

Mr BELL to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the status of police lock-ups at Katherine and Tennant Creek been changed to allow for confinements for up to 28 days and, if so, why?

ANSWER

I am not aware of such a situation. I ask the honourable member to place his question on notice.

Abattoir at Katherine

Mr LEO to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Is the minister aware of the possible closure of the abattoir in Katherine at the end of the current season? What action will be taken to prevent the possible closure of the abattoir, given the importance of the operation to the local economy?

ANSWER

It is my experience that the abattoir in Katherine closes every year. I would not find it at all unusual if the abattoir closed this year.

Rural Planning Authority and Palmerston Development Authority

Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What input will the Rural Planning Authority have with the Palmerston Development Authority?

ANSWER

Formally none, but on the other hand, I made quite clear at the time of release of the Palmerston development proposal that any person who considers he has an interest in that area or that he will be in any way affected by what happens through the development of Palmerston is more than welcome to make any input.

Aboriginals and the Electoral Roll

Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he yet in a position to inform the Assembly what action the government proposes to take to ensure that all Aborigines of 18 years of age and over are placed on the electoral roll?

ANSWER

I believe that it is the intention of the Electoral Office, over the course of the next several years, to embark on enrolment campaigns and voter education campaigns, but I am not in a position to give precise details of those matters.

Length of School Terms in the Northern Territory

Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Why do children in the Northern Territory now attend school for up to 2½ weeks less than children in other states because of shorter term times and why is the situation being allowed to continue under the semester system to be introduced in 1982?

ANSWER

Certainly that is not my understanding of the number of school days put in by Northern Territory students. I will certainly check the honourable member's figures but I think she will find she is wrong.

Overseas Visit of Minister for Transport and Works

Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In respect to his forthcoming 1-month visit overseas, would he please inform the Assembly which countries he will be visiting and the purpose of his visit to each place?

ANSWER

I shall be going to the United Kingdom to attend a water industries conference in London and Brighton. From there, I shall proceed to European ports to inspect the railroad facilities. Whilst I am in London, I will be attending all sessions of that water conference. I will then be going to Germany for an international trade fair on waste disposal and a sewage and refuse symposium, which should make the member for Fannie Bay happy. Whilst I am in the United States, apart from various ports that I intend visiting, I shall be asked to officiate at a keel-laying ceremony for a warship which is to be named after the city of Darwin: HMAS Darwin. It is the first warship to be thus named and I deem that a great honour. Upon my return, I will provide the Assembly with a copy of the report of the trip.

Housing Commission Blocks

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

I would like to ask the same question that I asked before but I will preface my remarks by saying that I refer to Housing Commission blocks that can be purchased by public servants. What guidelines does the Housing Commission use when determining whether or not a block of land is suitable for medium-density housing and is there a minimum size for blocks that can be used for this purpose?

ANSWER

The rephrasing of the question has made it more confusing than it was in the first place. I really cannot follow what my colleague wants. If he would like to talk to me later, I will be able to get the information he obviously needs.

Ross River Fever

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has he had any success with his attempts to have Ross River Fever renamed?

ANSWER

I can advise the member that our efforts have not fallen on deaf ears. In fact, it is quite a complex procedure to have viruses renamed because there are international connotations. We have spoken to Australian authorities responsible for such an activity. They have agreed to support our proposal. It now has to run the gamut of international considerations. I hope that it will be renamed within a year.

International-standard Indoor Stadium

Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for YOUTH SPORT and RECREATION

Is the government considering building an international-standard indoor stadium in Darwin?

ANSWER

A feasibility study is being carried out for such a proposal. I hope to be able to present to Cabinet a submission relating to that exercise. Most members would be aware that the Commonwealth government has made an announcement that it is prepared to provide \$25m for sporting facilities throughout Australia on a dollar-for-dollar basis. I would be very interested to try to obtain some of those funds for such a facility in Darwin. Discussions have taken place with the various sporting organisations which could use such an indoor facility. The requirements that the federal government has put on the dollar-for-dollar grant relate to its being an international-standard facility. We do not have one in the Territory. I believe that we would have a very good chance of obtaining a dollar-for-dollar subsidy from the federal government providing that the Northern

Territory government was in a position to get these sporting organisations together. I refer to basketball and other indoor sports such as judo and gymnastics. The submission will be presented to Cabinet in the near future and we will be in a position to make an announcement regarding the proposal shortly.

Pathology Laboratory at Darwin Hospital

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What is the future of the pathology laboratory at Darwin Hospital? Has the minister considered the use that is made of that facility by other departments, such as the Department of Primary Production?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to put his question on notice.

Northern Territory Lottery

Mrs LAWRIE to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Racing and Gaming Commission or any other government agency been asked to conduct a feasibility study into running a Territory lottery and, if so, what was the result?

ANSWER

The short answer is yes. I think the Treasury rather than the Racing and Gaming Commission - but I could be wrong - was asked to conduct a feasibility study. I think it has conducted more than one. One was conducted in 1978 and it was reviewed fairly recently. This matter bears upon a similar comment in an adjournment debate by the member for Tiwi that the Territory should have its own lottery. The government would be quite happy with the proposition. Governments run lotteries in Queensland and South Australia and other states. Due to the size of the Territory population and the flood of lotteries which are operated here, apparently the Treasury study indicates that a lottery in the Territory would not be feasible. It would have to be kept open for an unreasonable length of time - from memory, I think as long as 12 months - and the interest people would have in buying tickets that would not be drawn for 12 months would be negligible. One of the most popular games sweeping South Australia and the Northern Territory at present is the South Australian invention called Instant Money. I doubt that a 12-month lottery would be in the sweepstakes with that.

Venereal Disease

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What is the incidence of venereal disease in young people in the Territory?

ANSWER

The information which he is seeking should be found in the Health Department's annual report. I would summarise it by saying that, in 1980, in the 15 to 19 year age group, 81 persons had gonorrhea and 93 had syphilis; in the 20 to 24 age group, 216 had gonorrhea and 109 syphilis; in the 25 to 29 age group, 145 had gonorrhea and 100 with syphilis; and in the 30 to 34 age bracket, 117 gonorrhea and 44 syphilis. Additionally, during 1980, 8 cases of gonorrhea were notified in people of less than 15 years of age and 23 cases of syphilis for the same age group.

Katherine Rural Education College

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has the Katherine Rural Education College been transferred to 15-mile Katherine Experimental Farm?

ANSWER

There is a requirement for further demountables to complete the shift. I received a very clear message when I was in Katherine last weekend from parents who are interested in the Katherine Rural Education Centre that the entire operation ought to be based at the 15-mile farm and not split as it is at the moment. I accept what they say. Every effort must be made to make a success of the Katherine Rural Education Centre. It is quite clear that it needs a home of its own and steps will be taken to achieve that end.

Northern Territory Development Corporation Annual Report

Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it still the intention of the government to table at this sittings the Northern Territory Development Corporation Annual Report for 1978-79?

ANSWER

I cannot answer that question. I can make inquiries right away, of course, but I am not aware whether the 1978-79 report is ready or not. I will certainly find out.

Northumberland Insurance Company

Mr EVERINGHAM (Chief Minister)(by leave); While I am on my feet, Mr Speaker, I will reply to the honourable member for Nightcliff in respect to the Northumberland Insurance Company.

It appears that the Treasurer sought the information yesterday because this minute to him from the Treasury is dated 10 June. Apparently, we have had no response so far from the Commonwealth to representations to the Department of Home Affairs to have the Commonwealth accept responsibility for some proportion of the claims against Northumberland Insurance Company. I understand that the advertisements which were put in the paper some time ago asking people to indicate potential claims drew a likely quota of about \$150,000. The Treasurer's minute states that the latest advice from the Department of Law is that further action should be delayed as there is a possibility that the Commonwealth will meet all outstanding claims whether or not there has been a court decision. All I can say is that, after this time, I think that whoever in the Department of Law gave that advice to the Department of Treasury must be a wishful thinker. We will do something about processing the claims that we have.

Lecturers for Students Seeking Seamanship Tickets

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Following the introduction of the Maritime Bill, has he taken steps to recruit people for the Darwin Community College who are adequately equipped to lecture students seeking varying degrees of seamanship tickets?

ANSWER

I have no doubt that the question was well meant. However, every time something goes wrong with the community college, I am instructed or asked by this Assembly to order the college to do something or other. Each time it is inconvenient for honourable members or for some other reason they do not want me to do anything, they say that I am interfering politically in the affairs of an autonomous institution. The fact is that I cannot win. The answer is that it is entirely a matter for the Darwin Community College, unless members of this Assembly want me to change the act.

Sites of Significance in Proposed Alice Springs Industrial Area

Mr D.W. COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Earlier this sittings, the minister outlined some difficulties in establishing the east-side industrial area in Alice Springs due to claims for sacred sites in the area. What efforts did the Department of Lands make to ensure that it was aware of any sites of significance in that area prior to drawing up the plans?

ANSWER

I thank the honourable member for the question; it is a good one. As is implicit in his question, great cost has been involved in getting to the stage we have with the planning of the east-side subdivisions, both industrial and residential. From memory, the first study in relation to that area was the Alice Springs Urban Development Study in 1975 which was commissioned by the Department of the Northern Territory as it then was. The areas where we are currently trying to establish both residential and industrial subdivisions on the eastern side of Alice Springs were identified in that plan. Nothing came up at that time in relation to sites of significance. In 1978, the Department of Lands specifically requested the Central Land Council and, I understand, our Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, to identify specifically any sites of significance in the eastern section of town. They were able to identify 2 which were widely known as sites of significance. My department was not satisfied that the information was necessarily all there was to the story and subsequently involved the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the Sacred Sites Authority. Another 2 sites were then identified, and nothing further. Since work has started in the area, particularly in the industrial subdivision, the entire valley is claimed to be a site of significance.

In fairness to the Central Land Council, it said at the time that these were the only known sites and further research was needed. However, the problem is that the Central Land Council, and indeed Aboriginal people in the area, quite freely admit to the Department of Lands that sites will not be disclosed until such time as all the work is done and - to use the land council's terms - the sites are threatened. Of course this places the government in an absolutely impossible position. We cannot plan around the sites of significance because we do not know they are there and the land council will not tell us until we start with the bulldozers. This involves enormous delays and tremendous cost to the taxpayer. I do not know what the answer is. It certainly seems as if there is a great deal of reluctance on the part of the Central Land Council to cooperate with the Department of Lands in the interests of all.

Senior Secondary College

Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has the Department of Education abandoned the proposal to use Casuarina High School as a senior secondary college as was stated at the seminar and is the proposal now to build a new facility?

ANSWER

I intended addressing myself to that subject last night in the adjournment. The contents of the Green Paper are for the purpose of public discussion. The policy which arises out of that is a matter for myself and Cabinet. I can assure this Assembly that no such decision has been taken by the government.

Education of Seamen

Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In introducing his Marine Bill the honourable member stated: 'Facilities are to be set up for the training, education and examination of seamen to ensure they have every opportunity to gain basic qualifications or to upgrade existing

qualifications'. Where are those facilities to be set up and by whom will they be staffed?

ANSWER

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

Alice Springs Airport

Mr BELL to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Has he an assurance from the federal government that the Alice Springs Airport will be upgraded to international standard within 10 years?

ANSWER

To get an assurance that anything will be upgraded to international standard within 10 years would be surely a meritorious feat. Should I achieve such greatness, I will no doubt make an announcement.

Government Criteria for Funding Cultural Activities

Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

Does the Northern Territory government have a policy on the arts which guides it in the allocation of money for artistic and cultural activities and, if so, will he outline that policy in the Assembly or table a copy of it?

ANSWER

I ask the honourable member to place the question on notice for my colleague.

NOTICE GIVEN ON DATE SHOWN

From 18 November 1980

Collia Tin Mine

6 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

As a number of people have lost their savings in the Collia tin mine affair,

- (a) what detailed action has been taken by the Department of Mines to settle the matter;
- (b) how much money has been lost by people involved;
- (c) how much did Mr Ken Day receive for the tin he mined from Collia;
- (d) why has he not explained in the Legislative Assembly what action the government has taken;
- (e) did the Department of Law recommend that anybody be charged over the affair and, if so, why was not that recommended action proceeded with;
- (f) was the government's lack of action coloured by the fact that Mr Day was once the head of the Progress Party, whose votes had helped the Country Liberal Party;
- (g) what is now being done about the matter; and
- (h) are police trying to contact the previous leaseholder who disappeared and, if so, do they know in which state he is residing?

Government Assistance for Tradesmen to Visit Remote Areas

44 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What assistance will the government provide to enable electrical, plumbing and building tradesmen and inspectors to visit remote centres such as Borroloola to assist home owners?

From 25 November 1980

Operational Grant Subsidies Scheme

79 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Which organisations are funded under the Operational Grant Subsidies Scheme?
2. Does he intend to increase the number of organisations able to receive funding on a 3 years basis, to allow more effective functioning?
3. How much has been allocated to the Government Concession Scheme for 1980-81, and in which financial allocation is it included?
4. Will he provide a complete itemisation of the financial allocation for 1980-81 of \$1,071,588 in the grants and subsidies section?

Department of Community Development - Advertisement in NT News

82 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I refer to an advertisement in the November 4 edition of the NT News placed by the Department of Community Development calling for a person to carry out a program entitled 'Survey of Aboriginal Communal Camping and Residential Facilities in Urban Areas', and ask -

1. How many people applied for the position?

2. Has the position been filled and, if so, (a) who has filled the position, (b) has the successful applicant commenced work on the program, and (c) what is the nature of the work currently being undertaken?

From 24 February 1981

NT Pensioners Concession Scheme

87 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Under the NT Pensioners Concession Scheme, how many persons received assistance in the categories of council and land rates?

Department of Community Development Grants-in-Aid

104 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Which community groups made application to the Department of Community Development for Grants-in-Aid for the year 1980-81?
2. How much did each group request?
3. How much was granted to each of the applicants?

Elsey and Hodgson Downs Pastoral Leases

126 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. What efforts are being made to have land excised from Elsey and Hodgson Downs pastoral leases for use as community areas for Aborigines?
2. Is the government's failure to obtain such excisions frustrating provision of essential services such as septic systems, power supplies, airstrips and housing?

Katherine Water Supply

133 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Will electricity to be reticulated to the new water supply at Donkey Camp near Katherine be extended to cater for consumers and future subdivisions on the Gorge road, and to Katherine Gorge?

Katherine Community Welfare Office

134 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Why did Mr Peter Ryan of his department post a notice on the door of the regional office in Katherine on 8 January 1981 advising people in need of assistance to contact Les MacFarlane?
2. Is this action likely to be repeated?

Katherine High School - Cleaning Tender

135 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Is he aware that the successful tender for cleaning Katherine High School (Gazette No. G1, 9 January 1981, ETB 27/80) is in excess of \$80,000, or almost \$410 for each school day, for 1981 and, if so, will he investigate alternative means of cleaning to lighten this load on the taxpayer?

Richard Koerner

147 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. In what capacity is Mr Richard Koerner employed by the Northern Territory government?

2. What salary, allowances and other entitlements is Mr Koerner receiving?

From 3 March 1981

Tenders for School Bus Runs

152 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

Why was ETB 3/80 cancelled and recalled as ETB 14/80?

Tenders for School Bus Runs

153 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

In regard to tenders TB 1026/79A and TB 1093/79, in what respect did the tenders received from O'Hara's Roadlines Pty Ltd not conform?

Tenders for School Bus Runs

154 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

1. Is it a fact that the tenderer awarded TB 1026/79A and TB 1093/79 had 8 buses to service 7 runs?
2. If so, how was the tenderer awarded these runs being 2 buses short of the required 10 buses for 8 runs?

Tenders for School Bus Runs

155 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

1. Does tender TB 1026/79 (school bus runs) state that all buses offered in the tender must be in Darwin 14 days prior to the commencement of the tender?
2. If so, why was the tender awarded to a tenderer who did not meet this specific requirement?

Essential Services for Aboriginal Communities

156 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

1. What is being allocated in cash for essential services in 1980-81 and for which Aboriginal communities?
2. What are the proposed projects?
3. What projects have been completed?
4. How many Aborigines (a) have been, and (b) are employed with the essential services program?
5. What training are they receiving and from whom?
6. What essential services program has been decided upon for the Hodgson community?
7. What improvements are to be carried out in respect of (a) a water supply, (b) provision of toilets and showers, and (c) upgrading of and access to the airstrip?

Rehabilitation of Rum Jungle and Other Uranium Mine Sites

157 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. Will he advise the Assembly on the progress of plans to rehabilitate Rum Jungle?

2. Will he also advise of any plans to rehabilitate and make safe the tailings dumps at other uranium mine sites in the NT?

TAA Bid for Connair

158 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Did the NT government intervene to prevent TAA proceeding with the purchase of Connair for \$1.6 million under an agreement signed in September 1979 and if so, why?

TAA Bid for Connair

159 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Did the government intervene late in 1979 to prevent TAA proceeding with a second bid of \$1.85 million for Connair and, if so, why?

East West Airlines

160 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. When did the NT government first raise with East West Airlines the back-to-back requirements of the guarantee arrangements?
2. Was the advice in writing?

Bans on Northern Airlines

161 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. What are the details of the agreement between the NT government and the Australian Federation of Air Pilots which enabled the bans on Northern Airlines by the federation to be lifted?
2. Was the agreement signed on behalf of the NT government by the Acting Secretary of the Department of Transport and Works?
3. Will he table the document in the Assembly?

East West Airlines

162 Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Did the government receive from East West around May 1980 details of that company's borrowing capacity, including (a) current East West borrowing capacity, (b) borrowing requirements for operations outside the Territory, (c) equity levels to support borrowing, and (d) capacity to support borrowing by the NT airline?
2. If so, why was this information not made available to the merchant banker, Hill Samuel?

East West Airlines

163 Mr LEO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Did the 3-man committee established by the government to examine the Connair takeover offers first recommend acceptance of other offers before recommending East West?

East West Airlines

164 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. In view of the government's insistence that the guarantee to Northern Airlines of East West Airlines was always intended to be a back-to-back nature, why was such a provision not made clear in either the

memorandum of understanding or the deed?

2. What documented evidence can the government produce to support its claim that a guarantee must be back-to-back?

East West Airlines

165 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Did the government advise East West in September 1980 that the company's request for guarantees on behalf of Northern Airlines had been approved in principle subject only to documentation?

Transecutive Pilots

166 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Which former Northern Airline pilots will get permanent positions with Transecutive if that company is granted a long-term licence to operate both contracts?
2. Is it a fact that former senior pilots with Northern Airlines are likely to get these positions, that they will require re-training to fly Nomads, and that the government has agreed to meet the cost of this re-training?

Northern Airlines Replacement by TAA

167 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When did the government first approach TAA regarding the possibility of that company providing an interim service following the closure of Northern Airlines?

Transecutive Pilots

168 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Who will meet the wage costs of the pilots taken on by Transecutive who are surplus to the number actually required to operate the contracts during the interim period?
2. If it is the government, why?

Industries Training Commission

173 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. How many apprentices are with the Industries Training Commission?
2. What is the number in each trade and the breakdown of males and females for each category?

Link Courses Between Sadadeen High School
and Central Australia Community College

174 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Will he advise on progress of the link courses between Sadadeen High School and Community College of Central Australia?

Female Field Worker with Aboriginal Sacred Sites Authority

175 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Aboriginal Sacred Sites Authority appointed a suitably qualified female field worker-anthropologist to work directly with Aboriginal women?

From 2 June 1981

Mining Royalties Paid to Aborigines

178 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

Will he advise -

1. The amount paid to Aborigines in the NT from mining royalties in (a) 1978, (b) 1979, and (c) 1980?
2. What level are these mining royalties expected to reach in 1981?
3. What funds the Aboriginal Development Commission has to invest in the NT in 1980-81?
4. Are mining Royalties paid to Aborigines considered as taxable income?

Special Assistance Loan to Northern Meat Exporters

179 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER

What are the terms and purpose of the Special Assistance Loan made to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd by the Commonwealth and taken over by the NT Development Corporation? (See answer to Question 103).

Generators at Elliott and Newcastle Waters

188 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What is the current rating of (a) the 3 generator sets at Elliott and (b) the generator at Newcastle Waters?
2. What is (a) the rating and (b) the cost of the proposed generator installation at Newcastle Waters?
3. Are any other projects to be deferred or abandoned to allow for the proposed generator installation at Newcastle Waters?
4. What was (a) the original design level of the generator set pad and, if the original design has been altered, (b) what is the new level?
5. What is the highest recorded flood level in the region in which the proposed generator is to be placed?

Demountable for Katherine Rural Education Centre

193 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

What are the reasons for the delay in providing demountable buildings for the Katherine Rural Education Centre at the 15-mile Experimental Farm, Katherine?

NTDC Loans

194 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

1. When were the following outstanding loans taken up by the respective organisations -
 - (a) a special assistance loan to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd;
 - (b) a special assistance loan to Alice Springs Abattoirs Pty Ltd; and
 - (c) a special assistance loan to Carba Australia Ltd?
2. When will the above loans be fully paid out?
3. How many loans in the following categories remain outstanding -
 - (a) sale of bores (drought relief);

- (b) flood relief loans;
 - (c) Darwin business relief loans; and
 - (d) Primary Producers Board loans?
4. How many of the recipients of loans in the above-mentioned categories have defaulted?
5. What course of action is NTDC undertaking to recover such funds?

Interest Rate on Loan to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd

195 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER

What rate of interest is being charged on the \$1.4m special assistance loan granted to Northern Meat Exporters Pty Ltd?

Travelling Allowance for Ministers

196 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

For each minister, how many days travelling allowance has been paid from 1 January 1981 till 1 May 1981?

From 9 June 1981

Ministers' Travel

197 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many days travelling allowance have been paid to each minister from 1 January to 25 May 1981?
2. What was the cost of travel undertaken by aircraft charter by each minister from 1 January to 25 May 1981?
3. How many overseas trips have been undertaken by ministers on official business from 1 January to 25 May 1981?
4. What has been the total cost of these overseas trips?

Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service

198 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. What is the present staffing of the Aboriginal and Islander Medical Centre? Are there plans to increase the staffing levels and, if so, what positions?
2. What are the functions and duties of the Aboriginal and Islander Medical Service?
3. During the 6 months to 31 May 1981, (a) how many Aboriginals have been treated per week by AIMS, (b) what are the major categories of illness, and (c) where do the Aboriginals, in the main, come from?
4. How many Aboriginal liaison officers are attached to Casuarina Hospital; what hours do they work; and are there plans to increase the numbers?
5. Are any Aboriginal liaison officers to be employed at Darwin Hospital?

Hospital Advisory Boards

199 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

What is the composition of the various hospital advisory boards in the Northern Territory?

Refugees at Tamarind Centre

200 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. How many refugee families are now at Tamarind Centre?
2. How many have obtained employment?
3. How many have moved from the hostel into the community?
4. How many adults are undertaking English lessons?

Student Assistance in NT

201 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

How many students in the Northern Territory are, (a) receiving assistance under the Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme, and (b) how many are in receipt of the full allowance?

NTPS Disabled Employees

202 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many disabled are employed in the NTPS, what are their positions, and with which departments?
2. How many disabled have been employed in the NTPS in 1981?

Funding of Women's Centres in NT

203 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for HEALTH

1. Does the Commonwealth provide 75% of the running costs for women's refuges in the Territory with the Northern Territory making up the shortfall as happens in the states?
2. Can he say what funding arrangements will apply to women's refuges in 1981-2?

Aborigines on Electoral Roll

204 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

What action is being taken by the government to ensure that Aborigines, 18 years of age and over, who are currently not on the electoral roll, are so enrolled to ensure compliance with the Electoral Act?

Medical Practitioners Servicing Community Health Centres

205 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

How many doctors have been servicing community health centres, and how many of these are private practitioners?

Public Housing - Out-of-turn Allocations

9 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. How many applications for out-of-turn allocation of public housing have been (a) received, (b) accepted, and (c) rejected?
2. How many applicants whose applications were (a) accepted, or (b) rejected were in receipt of (i) supporting parent's benefit, (ii) unemployment benefit, (iii) other pensions, (iv) one-income families?
3. How many applicants for out-of-turn accommodation were living in (a) caravans, (b) tents, (c) share accommodation, (d) hostels, or were (e) homeless?
4. What steps have been taken by the Housing Commission to assist those in need of accommodation who were rejected for out-of-turn accommodation?
5. If applicants were referred to other community organisations, to whom were they referred?
6. How many applicants were found accommodation directly by efforts of the Housing Commission?

ANSWER

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Number of requests received | 453 |
| Number of requests rejected and not presented to committee | 285 |
| Number of cases presented to committee | 168 |
| Number of cases approved by committee | 29 |
| Number of cases rejected by committee | 139 |
| 2. Applicants approved | 29 |
| Supporting parents | 6 |
| Unemployment benefit | 2 |
| Other pensioners | 5 |
| Medical | 9 |
| Evictions | 4 |
| Welfare | 3 |
| Applications not approved | 424 |
| | *January 1980-August 1980 |
| Supporting parents | 82 applied |
| Unemployment benefits | 17 applied |
| Other pensioners | 26 applied |
| Employed | 171 |
| | (single and combined income) |
| * Source of income figures are not available prior to January 1980. | |
| 3. Statistics are not kept on the type of accommodation the applicant is currently occupying. | |
| 4. The non-approved applicant is advised in writing that a re-assessment can be requested if their circumstances change. The staff refer the unsuccessful applicant to specialised community organisations who will carry out follow-up assistance. | |
| 5. Applicants are referred to community organisations - | |
| Salvation Army | Council on the Ageing |
| YWCA | Government Hostels |
| YMCA | CWA |
| Community Development for bond assistance | Silas Roberts Hostel. |
| 6. Records have not been kept in relation to the location of accommodation in the private sector in many instances, however, they can only advise | |

of accommodation available, they cannot compel the applicant to pursue the assistance offered.

Alice Springs - Traffic and Railway

74 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. How many vehicles use the level crossing daily at the Larapinta Drive-Telegraph Terrace intersection in Alice Springs?
2. Is it true that a set of traffic lights will be installed at the intersection and crossing?
3. In the matter of arrangements being made for the Alice Springs to Darwin standard gauge railway planning what decision-making powers are held by (a) the NT government, (b) the Alice Springs municipality, and (c) the Australian National Railways Commission?
4. In the event of a dispute over the location of the railway line, is it true that the Alice Springs municipality can be overruled by the ANR?
5. Will he supply a list, including (a) dates, (b) names of participants, and (c) the agenda of meetings which have been held between the ANR and his department during the past 2 years and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

1. Current usage of the above level crossing is in the range of 12,000 to 14,000 vehicles per day dependent on the time of the year.
2. Yes, these lights will be installed at the new crossing location after construction of the standard gauge railway terminal and road is completed.
3. Decision-making powers relevant to the Alice Springs standard gauge railway planning are set out below. It is pointed out however that the decisions were made after consultation with the interested bodies.
 - (a) The Northern Territory government has the powers to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Territory as vested to it by Section 6 of the Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act including for land use, planning, development and acquisition, town planning and regulation of surface transport. Existing Northern Territory laws have not, however, provided the Northern Territory government with much power to directly influence arrangements for the railways.
 - (b) The Alice Springs Corporation's powers are basically as provided under the Local Government Act which effectively give it very little decision-making power over future railway arrangements in Alice Springs. However, the corporation does derive some further powers through the Planning Act's provision for local representation on the Northern Territory Planning Authority.
 - (c) The Australian National Railways Commission, through the Commonwealth Railways Act, has powers to acquire land necessary for a railway. These powers are subject to other provisions of that Act and to other Commonwealth legislation, including the Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act.

The Australian National Railways has the powers to determine where the railways goes, to obtain the necessary land and to construct the railway and its ancillary requirements. This, however, has to be considered in the context that for the Alice Springs railhead there were only two minor acquisitions required by Australian National Railways. Both were to improve the road situation not

the rail. Other acquisitions associated with the railhead were to provide necessary improvements to major south-north and east-west road links and allow other necessary improvements to the central business district. These will be facilitated by release of railway land and modifications to its railhead design.

4. Yes, in a legal sense. However, in practice, consultation took place between the Australian National Railways, the Alice Springs Corporation, the Northern Territory and Commonwealth government before a final decision was made on the location of the railway. The corporation's views were given careful consideration in arriving at the location.
5. There is ongoing liaison between the Department of Transport and Works, Commonwealth Department of Transport and the Australian National Railways Commission on a range of matters. I presume the honourable member is interested in meetings in the past 2 years specifically relating to the location of and design parameters for the Alice Springs railhead.

Participants

Items Discussed

30 October - 1 November 1978

Australian National Railways

Department of Transport and Works - Met oil company executives

Department of Lands and Housing - Reviewed earlier evidence presented

Commonwealth Department of Transport - Town Planning Report

Commonwealth Department of Finance - Met Corporation representatives

13 - 14 December 1978

Australian National Railways

Department of Transport and Works - Draft report to Commonwealth and Northern Territory governments

Department of Lands and Housing

Commonwealth Department of Finance

Northern Territory Treasury

16 and 30 March 1979

Australian National Railways

Department of Transport and Works - Technical design problems and town planning needs

Department of Lands and Housing

NT Electricity Commission

28 November 1979

Australian National Railways

Corporation of the Municipality of Alice Springs

Department of Transport and Works - Town planning needs

Department of Lands and Housing
(informal meeting)

Sadadeen Subdivision

81 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. To what extent has the government developed Sadadeen lots to the turn-off stage?
2. Since private developers were originally invited to register an interest in Sadadeen development only 3 months ago, and since the successful tenderer was named only this month, when does the developer expect to have all lots to the turn-off stage?
3. At what price will the government buy the developed blocks?

4. Was an undertaking to use local labour and materials a factor in the successful tender by the company chosen by the government to develop Sadadeen?
5. Has the government studied the cost-effectiveness of maintaining the role of departments such as the Department of Transport and Works in developing residential subdivisions?

ANSWER

1. Prior to inviting private developers, the government had completed engineering survey of the approved plan of subdivision. Engineering design had commenced but was not substantially advanced. All engineering survey plans were made available to developers. The present situation is that a Town Land Subdivision lease for Sadadeen Stage 1 (270 lots) was granted to a private developer, Arian Investments, in early October and detailed engineering design and documentation are now proceeding. The developer intends to call tenders for construction next month and commence site work in January.
2. The developer is committed under the Development Deed, to turnoff blocks for the government and for private sale in 3 stages commencing in April and finishing in September next year.

The 3 stages are:

April	69 government	9 private
July	39 government	44 private
September	balance	([109] nominal)

These block numbers (total 270) include 2 large blocks zoned for higher density development and the developer has expressed the intention of further developing these blocks concurrently with normal single residence allotments.

3. \$12,500 per block.
4. The government encourages developers to make optimum use of local resources. The successful applicant indicated that he proposed maximum involvement by the local work force, local engineers, local builders and local agents. His actions to date in engaging a local engineering consultant and real estate agent have borne out this expressed intent.
5. The government has adopted the principle that government involvement in subdivisions tends to become increasingly bureaucratic and less cost effective in the process. We are committed to development in all areas by private enterprise wherever possible.

The Department of Transport and Works will necessarily continue to be involved to a significant degree in the provision of external headworks for subdivisions and in the construction of subdivisions in smaller centres.

Alice Springs Golf Club

97 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is he aware that the Alice Springs Golf Club is planning to develop its leased land in Alice Springs as a luxury housing and sporting estate?
2. If so, has this proposal been brought to the notice of the minister and the NT Planning Authority?
3. Does the government intend to permit development of leased land by sporting bodies, such as the Alice Springs Golf Club, as luxury housing and sporting estates?

ANSWER

1. Yes.
2. Not in the formal manner but the proposal has been seen by the Planning Authority.
3. No. In such cases sporting bodies will be required to surrender all or part of their leases in exchange for a new lease. Any development on surrendered land would be under short term Crown leases issued by the government approved developers.

Minister for Mines and Energy - Air Charter Travel 1979-80

111 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

1. How many trips were undertaken by the Honourable I.L. Tuxworth within the Northern Territory by way of air charter travel at government expense for the financial year 1979-80?
2. For each individual trip undertaken, what was (a) the date, (b) the cost, (c) the purpose, and (d) the names of the charter company used?

(a) Date	(b) Cost	(d) Charter Company	(a) Date	(b) Cost	(d) Charter Company
4. 7.79	1,600	Tennantair	11. 2.80	740	Tennantair
9. 7.79	748	Tennantair	21. 2.80	3,187	Tillair
3. 7.79	1,557	Airnorth	23. 2.80	716	Tennantair
6. 8.79	1,300	Tennantair	10. 3.80	1,440	Tennantair
15. 8.79	5,013	Tennantair	13. 3.80	2,820	Tennantair
24. 8.79	1,150	Tennantair	24. 3.80	2,566	Tennantair
27. 8.79	4,490	Tennantair	30. 3.80	1,380	Tennantair
30. 8.79	4,470	Tennantair	10. 4.80	1,064	Tillair
15. 9.79	2,091	Tennantair	18. 4.80	474	Tennantair
1.10.79	3,177	Tennantair	9. 5.80	3,840	Tennantair
5.10.79	386	Arnhem Air Charter	12. 5.80	400	Airnorth
24.10.79	3,760	Tennantair	16. 5.80	2,646	Airnorth
30.10.79	4,588	Tennantair	20. 5.80	1,114	Airnorth
6.11.79	1,748	Tennantair	24. 5.80	9,908	Tillair-Tennantair
12.11.79	2,380	Tennantair	14. 6.80	1,010	Tennantair
24. 1.80	1,242	Tillair	17. 6.80	538	Tennantair
26. 1.80	2,178	Tillair	25. 6.80	1,418	Tennantair
9. 2.80	432	Tennantair	27. 6.80	2,677	Airnorth

(c) All of the above travel was for official business.

Robinson River Station

114 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is he aware of the recent purchase of Robinson River Station by an Aboriginal organisation?
2. Is any statutory period set by either the Northern Territory or the Commonwealth government before a pastoral lease purchased by an Aboriginal organisation may be classified as Aboriginal land?
3. Have any Aboriginal organisations applied to convert pastoral leases to Aboriginal land?

ANSWER

1. Yes. I have recently given consent to transfer of the leasehold comprised in Robinson River Station.
2. No. The conversion of a pastoral lease held by an Aboriginal organisation to Aboriginal Freehold is processed under Commonwealth legislation

known as the Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act and applications may be lodged with the Aboriginal Land Commissioner as soon as the leasehold title is registered with the Northern Territory Registrar-General as owned by an Aboriginal organisation.

3. Yes. Land claims have been lodged in respect of 8 pastoral leases owned by Aboriginal interests and the Aboriginal Land Commissioner has made recommendations in respect of pastoral leases Utopia, Chilla Well, Willowra and Ti Tree.

Schoolchildren - Indemnity Forms

124 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Are pupils in NT schools required to obtain signed indemnity forms before engaging in school activities such as swimming lessons, excursions and sports outside school grounds?

ANSWER

Parents are required to sign indemnity forms prior to their children participating in interstate or intrastate excursions. Written parental permission is also required for any school educational activity in which pupils participate away from the school grounds.

Hermannsburg Mission

129 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has his attention been drawn to the allegation by Mr Charles Perkins that the Lutheran Church is exploiting Aborigines at Hermannsburg?
2. If so, does he know of any substance in the allegation?
3. If not, does he intend to allow such mischievous statements by a Commonwealth public servant to go uncorrected?

ANSWER

1. Yes.
2. I am advised that there is no substance in the allegation.

Some 3 years ago the Finke River Mission was concerned about the large cattle stocks in the area. At the same time there was an awareness of pending land claims thus creating concern regarding the capacity of people to cope with overstocked herds.

Advice was sought from the then Animal Industry Branch who confirmed the overstocking and recommended reduction to a manageable level. Acting on this advice the mission trucked off some 6,000-6,500 head of cattle over 2½-3 year period resulting in gross sales of around \$660,000.

The proceeds from the sale of cattle have been utilised to reimburse the mission's costs, that is, reimburse restocking in the early 70's, payment of maintenance, fencing projects and aerial counts.

In June-September 1980 the mission handed over all of the remaining cattle including assets at an estimated current value of \$800,000 to the 5 main Aboriginal land owners in the area. Part of this arrangement is for the mission to fund fencing of these areas upon completion of a proper survey, and on request from the individual groups concerned.

3. I will advise the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs that my inquiries indicate there is no substance in the allegation.

Hospitalisation of Injured Schoolchildren

136 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

When school authorities call an ambulance to hospitalise an injured pupil, are parents consulted or is it automatically taken that they concur with the principals' decisions and actions?

ANSWER

School authorities are obliged under the policy outlined in the Northern Territory Department of Education Handbook to first contact the parents of an injured or sick child in order to ascertain the parents' wishes as regards the most appropriate course of action. If the parents cannot be contacted or if the school authorities (the head teacher or his delegates) are of the opinion that the child's condition requires immediate medical or hospital treatment, then the school authorities will be regarded as acting on behalf of the parent in obtaining that treatment. The parents are of course fully informed of the action taken as soon as practicable.

Northern Territory Public Service

139 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

What was the cost of (a) salaries and wages, and (b) recreation leave fares for NT public servants during 1979-80?

ANSWER

Cost of salaries, wages and recreation leave fares for NT public servants during 1979-80:

Salaries	\$ 152,333,205
Wages	\$ 15,502,930
Fares	\$ 2,339,619
TOTAL	\$ 170,175,754

<u>Department/Authority</u>	<u>Salaries</u>	<u>Recreation Leave Fares</u>	<u>Wages</u>
Chief Minister	\$ 3,372,000	\$ 39,490	--
Community Development	\$ 8,329,841	\$ 168,982	\$ 29,800
Conservation Commissioner	\$ 4,916,792	\$ 146,063	--
Education (includes Industry Training Commission)	\$ 43,517,799	\$ 258,208	--
Port Authority	\$ 1,169,242	\$ 39,440	--
Health	\$ 41,182,312	\$ 756,067	--
Housing Commission	\$ 3,390,000	\$ 63,000	--
Lands	\$ 4,939,005	\$ 126,613	--
Law	\$ 3,925,660	\$ 69,666	--
Legislative Assembly	\$ 260,442	\$ 7,203	--
Mines and Energy	\$ 2,506,761	\$ 63,986	\$ 483,503
Museums and Art Galleries	\$ 272,740	\$ 4,784	--
Development Corporation	\$ 566,115	\$ 18,327	--
Emergency Service	\$ 278,375	\$ 5,976	--
Liquor Commission	\$ 169,735	\$ 2,200	--
Ombudsman	\$ 216,746	\$ 2,380	--
Police (Admin. only)	\$ 1,803,705	\$ 23,446	--
Primary Production	\$ 5,310,141	\$ 124,027	--
Public Service Commissioner	\$ 2,230,350	\$ 50,181	--
Racing and Gaming Commission	\$ 225,184	\$ 10,467	--
Treasury	\$ 2,195,064	\$ 42,453	--
Tourist Commission	\$ 568,626	\$ 8,553	--

<u>Department/Authority</u>	<u>Salaries</u>	<u>Recreation Leave Fares</u>	<u>Wages</u>
Transport and Works	\$ 20,986,570	\$ 231,195 [(Industrial) [\$ 76,822 [(Other Staff)	[\$14,721,427 [(Including [Trust [Account)
TOTAL	\$152,333,205	\$2,339,619	\$15,502,930

Hodgson Downs Station - Bores

142 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

How many dud bores have been drilled, within 2 miles of the homestead, at Hodgson Downs Station since 1952?

ANSWER

This question has to do with drilling for water, rather than for geological appraisal, and I would ask that it be redirected to my colleague, the Minister for Transport and Works.

Snell Street Gas Turbine Station

143 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

1. What was the cost of repairing damage inflicted on the Snell Street gas turbine station on 5 January 1980?
2. Was the damage to the station the result of flying debris from the cement works next door?
3. Who will meet the cost of repairing the station?

ANSWER

1. The damage to the Northern Territory Electricity Commission's property on 5 January 1981 was to its switchyard at the corner of Stuart Highway and Snell Street. The gas turbine installation was not damaged. The full cost of repairs has not yet been calculated, since some work remains outstanding, but it is approximately \$9,500.
2. The Commission believes that the damage was caused by flying roofing iron from the ABM Concrete Pty Ltd works on the adjoining block.
3. Initially the Commission will meet the cost of repairs but it is obtaining the advice of the Department of Law as to whether a recovery action might be successful.

Jabiru Water Supply Contamination

144 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Is there any evidence of contamination of the water supply at Jabiru as a result of mining activity and, if so, is it anticipated that similar contamination may occur elsewhere as a result of mining activity?

ANSWER

Monitoring of the purity of the water supply at Jabiru is carried out by the Water Division of the Department of Transport and Works and I would ask, therefore, that this question be redirected to my colleague, the Minister for Transport and Works.

Yuendumu Road

145 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Did the government make a commitment to the upgrading of the road between Alice Springs and Yuendumu in 3 stages of 90 kilometres in the financial year 1978-9 and, if so, what progress has been made to 3 February 1981 on upgrading the Alice Springs-Yuendumu Road?
2. As part of the upgrading of this section of road, did the government advise the Yuendumu Mining Company that certain materials would be required?

ANSWER

1. The upgrading of the Tanami Road from the Stuart Highway to Yuendumu was originally planned in 3 stages, each of 90 kilometres. The first stage was committed for commencement of construction in 1979.

Following more detailed planning, later stages were rescheduled in shorter sections. My department's present 5-year program recommends that construction continues in annual 30 kilometre stages commencing in 1983-4.

The first stage of 90 kilometres was completed on schedule in November 1980.

2. With any construction project the local supply of suitable materials is of paramount importance. It is particularly so on this project where supply distances are so great.

The Yuendumu Mining Company is one firm which may have the capacity to provide roadbuilding materials for the project. Preliminary discussions were held with the company representatives regarding their future involvement. When works are undertaken in their area, the company will be able to compete for materials supply through our normal tender procedures.

Sales Tax Rebate Scheme

148 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

1. By what method will the percentage of sales tax attributable to freight be calculated?
2. At what point will the freight cost on goods coming to the Territory be deemed to have commenced?
3. Will the freight cost assessed for Territory wholesalers be discounted to allow for the freight cost faced by southern wholesalers to ensure equity in terms of the impact on the sales tax burden?
4. How many importers pay sales tax in the Northern Territory?
5. Do any of those importers compete directly with wholesalers selling domestically produced goods?
6. Has any assessment been made on the effect on importers of a government induced cost advantage to domestic wholesalers in direct competition?
7. If some importers are significantly disadvantaged by the introduction of the government's proposed sales tax rebate scheme will the government consider some compensation?
8. What measures will be applied to ensure that there will be no book entry inflation of freight costs?
9. Will a condition of payment under the sales tax rebate scheme be that inspectors from the NT government have access to the relevant records of claimants at any reasonable time?

ANSWER

1. The percentage of sales tax attributable to freight is calculated by expressing freight charges relating to taxable goods over total taxable sales for 1979-80. The percentage is then applied to the actual amount of sales tax paid from 1 July 1980.
2. For the purpose of this subsidy all freight and handling charges involved in getting goods into the wholesalers warehouse are used in the calculation.
3. No. It would be extremely difficult to make this differentiation.
4. Information on importers with respect to sales tax is held by the Commonwealth government and is not available to the Northern Territory government. The Territory telephone directory lists 15 importers.
5. There would be some importers who would compete with Northern Territory wholesalers. For example, in the wood furniture and car market.
6. No.
7. The Northern Territory government is not aware of any overseas importers who are disadvantaged by this scheme. The government would consider the situation if evidence could be produced demonstrating such disadvantage.
8. Treasury officers check and verify the relevant records of potential recipients before a subsidy payment is recommended.
9. Before the percentage of sales tax attributable to freight may be determined, all relevant records are verified by Treasury officers. All firms participating in this scheme have cooperated to the fullest extent in this process on a confidential basis.

Whilst a percentage has been determined for 1980-81 for individual firms this will be subject to review as necessary.

Numbulwar - Housing

149 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has his attention been drawn to the need for houses for 72 families of Aborigines at Numbulwar?
2. If so, will he make representations to the Federal government to house these people or hand over the responsibility for housing them to the NT government?

ANSWER

1. My attention has been drawn to the need for houses for Aboriginal families at Numbulwar and at most other communities. There is a serious and longstanding backlog which the government has estimated to be in excess of 2,000 units. The Department of Aboriginal Affairs acknowledges that there is a severe housing shortage at Numbulwar and the fact that there are approximately 70 families without adequate housing is not disputed by that department which also affirms that the same situation applies in respect of many Aboriginal communities throughout the Northern Territory. The department adds that the operations of the Numbulwar Housing Association have recently improved and the department hopes to be able to make available some additional funds in the present financial year. An expanded program for the coming year will be a matter for the Aboriginal Development Commission.
2. The strongest representations have been made by the NT government with a view to gaining transfer of the responsibility for housing from the Commonwealth along with adequate funds to overcome the backlog.

Numbulwar - Freight Costs

150 Mr MacFARLANE to CHIEF MINISTER

1. Has his attention been drawn to the strain placed on the Numbulwar community by the recent rise in barge freight from 35¢ per kilo to 60¢ per kilo?
2. Is he able to state why it is cheaper to freight goods from Cairns to Numbulwar than from Darwin?

ANSWER

1. Freight rates place a strain on all communities in the Northern Territory. The more isolated the community, the greater the freight burden tends to be. The rate of 60¢ per kilo from Darwin to Numbulwar is not the general freight rate; it is the rate on freezer-chiller cargo. For some time this rate has been subsidised by the general freight rate. With the need to purchase new freezer-chiller units, it has become inappropriate to continue this cross-subsidy. The last increase in freight rate was in August 1978 and of course costs have increased substantially since then. Freight consignments to Numbulwar are very small and therefore providing the service is costly.
2. It is cheaper to freight goods to Numbulwar from Cairns than it is from Darwin. This is a commercial matter and it is not possible to state categorically what the reasons are. However, the Queensland company providing barge services is a much larger company than the Northern Territory operators and operates a transshipment service in the Gulf. It is likely that this is a far more cost-effective operation than long haul barge services which the Northern Territory companies provide.

NT Planning Authority - Katherine Representative

151 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Who have been the Katherine representatives on the NT Planning Authority since Alderman D.A. Collins resigned?

ANSWER

Mrs P.M. Davies, Mr P.A.E. Murphy and Mr D.J. Sweetman.

I am currently considering a replacement for Mr Collins from 3 persons nominated by the Corporation of the Municipality of Katherine.

Public Libraries in NT

169 Mr LEO to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In regard to public libraries, (a) how many are funded by the Northern Territory government, (b) what are their names, (c) where are they located, (d) how many staff do they employ, (e) how many books does each library have, and (f) what is their usage in borrowing terms over the 12 month period ending 31 January 1981?

ANSWER

(a) Funding: 7 public libraries are funded by the Northern Territory government.

(b) Names and Locations of Territory Public Libraries:

(c) & Darwin City Public Library	Nightcliff Public Library
Gallery Level	Pavonia Place
Smith Street Mall	NIGHTCLIFF
DARWIN NT	

Casuarina Public Library
Bradshaw Terrace
CASUARINA NT

Nhulunbuy Community Library
Nhulunbuy High School
NHULUNBUY NT

Katherine Public Library
Katherine Terrace
KATHERINE NT

Tennant Creek Public Library
Regional Office, Windley Street
TENNANT CREEK NT

Alice Springs Public Library
Cnr Leichhardt & Gregory Terraces
ALICE SPRINGS NT

(d) Staff Employed by the Public Libraries:

Darwin City Public Library	9 full-time
Nightcliff Public Library	2 full-time
Casuarina Public Library	15 full-time
Nhulunbuy Community Library	2 full-time
Katherine Public Library	1 full-time
Tennant Creek Library	1 full-time, 1 part-time
Alice Springs Public Library	8 full-time

(e) Bookstock - as at 20 February 1981:

Darwin City Public Library	24,419
Nightcliff Public Library	10,192
Casuarina Public Library	48,903
Nhulunbuy Community Library	7,676
Katherine Public Library	6,050
Tennant Creek Public Library	8,342
Alice Springs Public Library	24,114

(f) Book Loans over the 12 Months Period Ending 31 January 1981:

Darwin City Public Library	52,208
Nightcliff Public Library	51,116
Casuarina Public Library	264,268
Nhulunbuy Community Library	36,697
Katherine Public Library	23,885
Tennant Creek Public Library	15,656
Alice Springs Public Library	88,370

Department of Transport and Works Water Division Staff

170 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. How many persons, both staff and industrial, are employed in the Water Division of the Department of Transport and Works?
2. What water supply schemes, both underground and surface water, are currently being investigated by the Water Division?
3. What technical and professional staff are employed on the investigation of these schemes?
4. How many vacant professional positions are there in the Water Division and what steps are being taken to fill them?
5. How many clerical and administrative positions are there in the Water Division of the Department of Transport and Works?

ANSWER

1. As at 28 February, 404 permanent officers and 40 persons on limited tenure were employed in Water Division. In areas other than Darwin approximately 92 personnel are employed by Operations Division carrying out activities on behalf of Water Division.

2. There are 11 projects currently in progress throughout the Territory related to domestic or town water supply schemes with a further 4 of an agricultural or recreational nature. Numerous other projects related to potential future water supplies for domestic, agricultural or industrial use are current. Water supplies in the major centres are continually under investigation and review.
3. Normally each project is the direct responsibility of one professional engineer or hydrogeologist who will co-opt technical resources from the division as required. Virtually all professional and technical staff would at some time or other have input to water supply investigation work.

Numbers of professional and technical staff in Investigation Branch are as follows:

	<u>Professional</u>	<u>Technical</u>
Ground water	5	9
Surface water	10	37
Laboratories	7	12
Environmental	9	24

(This does not include industrial staff and the group responsible for operation and construction activities).

4. There are 6 vacant professional positions in Water Division. Four of these have been or are about to be advertised.
5. There are 90 clerical and administrative positions in the Water Division. These include staff in the business undertaking, the general administrative services group and the technical sections.

South Australian Symphony Orchestra Visit

171 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Has the government made, or will it be making, any contribution towards the cost of the tour to the NT during 1980 by the SA Symphony Orchestra?
2. If so, what is the amount contributed, and from which budget allocation is it taken?

ANSWER

The final cost of the 1980 tour of the Northern Territory made by the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra was \$40,881.

The Northern Territory government guaranteed the shortfall and the amount was paid from the Grants-in-Aid (Arts and Cultural Affairs) allocation.

Funding for Alcohol Treatment Centre

172 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has the government committed further funding for the Alcohol and Rehabilitation Centre at the Darwin Hospital so that staff members can be increased?

ANSWER

The provision of additional staff to the Alcohol Dependency and Treatment Unit at Darwin Hospital to enable them to operate on a 24 hour basis will be achieved by reallocation within the Department of Health.

Teacher Shortage in Public Schools

176 Mr B. COLLINS to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Will he advise whether any shortages of teachers exist in specific subject areas or age/grade levels in public schools in the Territory and,

if so, how many additional teachers would be required to fill the vacancies as at 28 February 1981?

2. If shortages exist in particular areas, will he indicate, (a) the areas affected, and (b) the extent of shortages in each of those areas?

ANSWER

1. Shortages of Teachers as at 28 February 1981, in:

- (a) Specific Subject Areas: Home Economics 3; Technical Studies 2; Teacher Librarians 3; Maths 2; Music 1.
- (b) Age/Grade Levels: Transition 2; 1 Teacher Schools General Primary Primary 6.

Total (a) and (b) = 19.

- 2.(a) Areas Affected by Shortages as at 28 February 1981:

Pigeon Hole - Primary Teacher; Victoria River Downs - Primary Teacher; Papunya - Teacher/Librarian, Primary Teacher; Amanbidji - Primary Teacher; Haast Bluff - Primary Teacher; Braitling - Transition Teacher; Bradshaw - Transition Teacher; Yirrkala - Teacher/Librarian, Primary Teacher; Maningrida - Technical Studies, Home Economics Teacher; Tennant Creek Area School - Home Economics Teacher; Elcho Island - Home Economics Teacher; Milingimbi - Technical Studies Teacher; Alice Springs High - Teacher/Librarian; Casuarina High - Music Teacher; Nightcliff High - Maths Teacher; Darwin High - Maths Teacher.

- (b) Positions not Filled as at 23 March 1981:

Pigeon Hole - school not yet opened, offer made; Victoria River Downs - offer made; Papunya - Teacher/Librarian not filled; Amanbidji - offer made but rejected, not filled; Haast Bluff - offer made; Yirrkala - offers made but rejected, not filled Teacher/Librarian, Primary Teacher; Maningrida - Technical Studies/Home Economics to be filled on 21 April 1981; Darwin High - offer made.

The main reasons for these teacher shortages are:

- (i) a high rejection rate of offers to applicants to serve in isolated communities, particularly to one-teacher schools;
- (ii) a national shortage of teachers trained in specialist secondary teaching areas (maths/science, home economics, technical studies, teacher/librarians and pre-school teachers); and
- (iii) the total number of replacement teachers required is not known until the first week of the school year because some resignations are not lodged until the final day of school holidays.

Feral Animals Committee

- 177 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

1. When was the Feral Animals Committee formed?
2. What is (a) its composition, (b) the names of members, and (c) their appointment dates?
3. What is its charter?
4. What is the length of term of membership?
5. How many meetings has it held since its appointment?
6. Can the minutes of these meeting be made available?

ANSWER

Responsibility for the Feral Animals Committee was transferred to the Conservation Commission on 18 August 1980.

Flood Insurance for Katherine Area

180 Mr MacFARLANE to TREASURER

Will he ask the Territory Insurance Office to make an immediate statement on flood insurance availability for the Katherine area?

ANSWER

TIO has for some time had under consideration the matter of providing flood insurance cover for residents of Katherine. It recently decided to provide this insurance as an extension to the fire and householders policies currently issued by the office.

The additional premium payable for this risk is \$3 per \$1,000 on building and contents.

Protection is available immediately through all branches of the Territory Insurance Office.

Resource Centre for Bamyili School

181 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

Has the resource centre proposed for Bamyili School received ministerial approval?

ANSWER

The government has approved the inclusion of a resource centre for Bamyili Primary School on the 1980-81 Design List.

The project will be recommended for inclusion on the 1981-2 Capital Works Program and will, of course, be subject to budget Cabinet deliberations.

Important Ceremonies in Schools

182 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Will the flag day, arbor day, wattle day, Gould bird-lovers day and other formerly important ceremonies be instituted in NT schools?
2. Will school children be encouraged to attend civic ceremonies, such as the bombing of Darwin, Anzac day and Remembrance day, as an essential part of their education?

ANSWER

1. The list of possible days for 'commemoration' is quite large. Schools are constantly being asked to bring a multitude of 'occasions' to pupils' notice. It would be too disruptive of a school's normal learning program to feature them all. So principals generally choose those 'days' or 'events' which they consider most relevant to their students and concentrate on these.

Where organisations connected with various 'days' request it, the department does provide schools with information on the 'day' and does distribute any materials that may be provided.

The more significant dates in the Australian calendar such as the anniversary of the bombing of Darwin, Anzac and Remembrance days are brought to the schools' attention and suggestions made for their observance.

2. There is no instruction that school children should attend civic ceremonies associated with various commemorations. Once again this is left to the individual school to institute whatever program is considered best for its children.

Road to Edith River Farms

183 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will the road into the Edith River farms be upgraded to all-weather standard?

ANSWER

The Edith River farms road has a very low priority for upgrading and is not included in any current proposals.

Youth Sporting Activities in Katherine

184 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for YOUTH, SPORT and RECREATION

1. Is he aware of the lack of interest in rugby league in Katherine this year?
2. Will he appoint a recreation officer in Katherine to encourage the youth of the town to engage in sporting activities rather than frequent pinball parlours?

ANSWER

1. Yes, I am aware that Katherine will not be participating in Darwin rugby league competition this season. I understand that Katherine entered the league on the proviso that they field an 'A' grade as well as a reserve team. Katherine has been unable to do this and thus were asked to withdraw from the league competition. Attempts have been made to generate interest but the community, whose responsibility it is, is unwilling to become involved.
2. The department is currently liaising with the Corporation of the Municipality of Katherine with regard to the appointment of a recreation officer. The task of this person will be to develop a comprehensive youth service for the young people of Katherine. This may involve some sporting activities but also the more recreational and social activities desired by young people. Negotiations with the corporation for financial assistance through the grants-in-aid scheme are continuing.

Oral History Program

185 Mrs O'NEIL to CHIEF MINISTER

I refer to the oral history program of the Chief Minister's Department and ask -

1. Is material now being stored in the Commonwealth Archives Building as foreshadowed in answer to Question 956 in November 1979?
2. If so, what controls are exercised over the removal of this material from the building?
3. What is the current membership of the Oral History Committee?
4. Is the Museums and Art Galleries Board represented on the committee and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

1. All necessary arrangements have been made for the material collected by the Oral History Committee to be stored in the Australian Archives

Building on behalf of the Northern Territory government and the basis for consultation between the archives and the Committee for access has been carefully established. The first completed oral history tapes and transcripts which have been indexed have been transferred to the archives together with a number of photographic and other documentary collections. Further material will be transferred as the necessary checking and indexing by the History Unit is completed.

2. The normal arrangements for access to archival collections will be applied by the Officer in Charge of the Australian Archives in Darwin.
3. The current membership of the Oral History Committee is: H.C. Giese (Chairman), Dr F.H. Bauer (representing NARU), Dr Alan Powell (Darwin Community College), Mr P. Spillett (Historical Society/Historian), Mr R. Davis (NT Library Service), Mr V. O'Brien (Historian), Dr I. Hunter (Oral History Association), and a representative of the National Trust.
4. Where, as a result of the oral history program, museum-type collections have been located the Board has been advised. The Museums and Art Galleries Board is not at present represented on the Oral History Committee.

Museums and Art Galleries Board Interest in Modern NT History

186 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. Does the Museums and Art Galleries Board have a staff member responsible for the area of modern NT history (i.e., since European settlement) and, if not, why not?
2. If so, what are his or her qualifications?
3. Is it intended that the NT Museums and Art Galleries Board establish collections in this field?
4. What is the relationship between the NT Museums and Art Galleries Board and the NT oral History Committee?

ANSWER

1. Yes.
2. A Curator of Territory History having both practical experience and academic qualifications (Batchelor of Arts degree majoring in history) is employed by Northern Territory Museums and Art Galleries Board.
3. Yes.
4. The parties are presently discussing their respective roles and how they relate.

William Gove House in Nhulunbuy

187 Mr LEO to CHIEF MINISTER

Which department is responsible for the management and administration of single persons accommodation at William Gove House, Nhulunbuy, blocks 6 and 7?

ANSWER

Currently the Department of Community Development is responsible for the management and administration of blocks 6 and 7 at William Gove House.

A joint review team consisting of representatives from the Public Service Commissioner's Office and the Housing Commission is, however, investigating

the feasibility of establishing a permanent office of the Housing Commission at Nhulunbuy early in the 1981-2 financial year.

Establishment of the permanent office will provide for the transfer of the management and administration function to the Housing Commission.

NT Pastoral Leases

189 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What is (a) the name and or number and, (b) the area of each pastoral lease in the NT not at present being worked?

ANSWER

To give a list of pastoral leases not at present being worked would require that all pastoral leases had been recently inspected (patently impossible) and would require also a definition of 'being worked'.

On the basis of reports resulting from the most recent inspections, and 'being worked' defined as having a resident manager and/or staff, the list is as follows:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Area km²</u>	<u>Comment</u>
588	Gurner	795	Owner recently deceased
640	Beetaloo	7,110	No recent turn-off, under Aboriginal land claim
665	Maryfield	4,105	Mortgagee sale
668	Gimbat	2,996	Problems with land status, although purchaser available
700	St Vidgeon	6,812	Under forfeiture
705	Eva Valley	2,927	Under forfeiture
760	Chilla Well	2,613	Abandoned by Aboriginal owners.

Tillage Technique for Top End Agricultural Conditions

190 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What work is being done to develop a suitable minimum tillage technique for Top End agricultural conditions?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory government has recognised the importance of developing suitable minimum tillage techniques for Top End production.

Recently I approved the Department of Primary Production and the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority entering into a joint project with the CSIRO Division of Tropical Crops and Pastures to research and develop minimum tillage techniques. Funds have been provided by our 2 organisations to CSIRO to build a test minimum tillage planter and an agricultural engineer is being recruited by the department for the project.

Initial research and development studies will be conducted at the CSIRO Katherine Research Station in the last dry season 1981, and the 1981-2 wet season, with follow-up studies on research stations throughout the Top End in subsequent years.

Some work has already taken place, notably by CSIRO at Katherine, but also by my department at Upper Adelaide River and Douglas Daly Experiment Stations. Although the project is only in its infancy, results to date are encouraging.

Minimum tillage techniques have the potential of reducing the costs of crop sowing, improving the reliability of crop establishment, increasing the time available for farmers to sow their crops, and reducing soil erosion risks.

Development of minimum tillage techniques not only involves testing and selection of suitable sowing machinery, but possibly also adjustments in fertiliser practices, weed control methods, seeding rates and timing of operations.

Electrical Stimulation Method of Tenderising Beef

191 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

Has his attention been drawn to an inexpensive electrical stimulation method of tenderising beef and, if so, will he encourage use of this method particularly in the Top End?

ANSWER

I am aware of the electrical stimulation method of tenderising beef as well as the 'tender stretch' method and the 'cryovac' method of producing tender beef.

These are all worthwhile methods of producing more tender beef for the quality table beef trade but of no value for the third grade manufacturing US export trade which most Territory beef is consigned to.

Both the 'tender stretch' method of hanging carcasses and the 'cryovac' method of packing whole cuts of meat have been, or are being, introduced into at least 5 major Territory abattoirs.

Effect of Low Price Paid to Cattlemen

192 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for PRIMARY PRODUCTION and TOURISM

What effect is the low price being paid to cattlemen by meatworks having on the live cattle trade?

ANSWER

Low prices being paid to cattlemen by meatworks appears to be having little effect on the live cattle trade.

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