

PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

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

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 12 SEPTEMBER 1978

1 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What steps are being taken to improve the water pressure in the Darwin area?

3 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. How many persons are currently employed in the NT Library Service, in which classifications and in which branches of the library services?

2. How many staff will be required for the new Casuarina library?

3. When will these staff be employed?

4. When is the new Casuarina library expected to open?

5. What is the book stock required for the Casuarina library?

6. When is it anticipated that these books will be processed and available for the Casuarina library?

4 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for EDUCATION

1. Is there a limit to the role of the Darwin Community College?

2. Who determines this role?

3. Has the Darwin Community College an open-ended function with unlimited funds or has it to answer to a governing body such as the Education Department?

4. How is the teaching of Singaporean cooking by the Darwin Community College justifiable in these days of economic strictures?

5. Is it a fact that the publication "Farewell to Alms" is being printed at the Darwin Community College?

5 Mr MacFARLANE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ASKED IN FIRST SESSION

212 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

1. Comprehensive analysis by the NT Primary Producers Board and by AACM together with several officers of the Department of the Northern Territory.
2. Yes.
3. By authority of cabinet when cabinet approved an investigation by a private firm of consultants and sought other investigations from the NT Primary Producers Board.

545 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

The Katherine manager of Elder Smith Goldsborough Mort accompanied the group comprising NT Primary Producers Board staff and an officer from the Department of the Northern Territory on its initial inspection of the Willeroo lease. No offer of purchase was made to Elder Smith Goldsborough Mort.

549 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

I did, on the recommendation of the Primary Producers Board.

550 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Does the Executive Member for Transport and Industry intend introducing legislation into the Assembly, validating the actions of the Primary Producers Board in making a cash advance to the receiver of NADC?

ANSWER

There is no intention to introduce any such legislation at this stage.

551 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ASKED IN FIRST SESSION

ANSWER

The chairman of the Primary Producers Board negotiated with a representative of the receiver to establish and maintain a cropping program and ancillary matters including the appointment of a manager and to arrange for the receiver to provide finance for the program. The negotiations included opening a bank account to record transactions from 2 December 1977. To this extent the chairman had the authority of the then Cabinet Member for Transport and Industry.

552 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

1. No.
2. No.

553 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

1. No.
2. As part of the arrangements made with the receiver the chairman was one of the signatories for cheques drawn on the special bank account established by the receiver to finance the cropping program and general management of the property.

He was also involved in the ordering of seed for the cropping program. In assuming those responsibilities he acted with the full knowledge and concurrence of the receiver.

572 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

1. and 2. The crops have now been harvested but marketing is not complete. As yet we have no firm indication of total value.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ASKED IN FIRST SESSION

575 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

No amounts were overpaid to A. Jettner. Arrangements have been made for all employees to be paid in full wages due to them.

576 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

The findings were comprehensive but briefly showed that with adequate management and the use of skilled sharefarmers, a viable agricultural industry could be established on a part of the Willeroo lease.

577 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

Yes.

578 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

No.

579 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

1. Low interest loans had not been secured from the receiver and consequently the executive was not in a position to proceed.
2. Negotiations have not been terminated by the NT executive.

580 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ASKED IN FIRST SESSION

ANSWER

The receiver with the agreement of the chairman of the Primary Producers Board.

582 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

The position was quite different at the time of the second application because of the significant sums owing to local people and business interests which in some cases were well overdue. In approving the loan the NT executive took into account the need to alleviate that situation as quickly as possible.

583 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

1. 18 November 1977.
2. No. \$6,259 to date.

584 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

No.

585 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

The executive took the view that it was the receiver's responsibility to provide such funds and the receiver's offer of the property to the executive had included an amount for carry-on finance.

586 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ASKED IN FIRST SESSION

ANSWER

No.

587 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

No housekeeper was employed over the Christmas and New Year period.

589 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

No.

590 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

Yes, on a few occasions, one of which involved the winding up of Francis Creek Iron Mining Company after the then federal Minister for Transport, Mr Jones, increased the rail freight rates and put the mine into receivership.

591 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

See the answer to question No. 553.

592 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

The harvesting and marketing of crops at Scott Creek are the responsibility of the receiver and his manager.

593 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ASKED IN FIRST SESSION

2. What is the interest rate on the \$150,000 advance to the receiver of the Willeroo-Scott Creek properties?

ANSWER

1. Section 9(4).
2. 2 per cent.

594 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

The Primary Producers Board did not employ a resident manager at Willeroo-Scott Creek.

595 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

The cost to the Primary Producers Board for its officers was as follows:

Salaries	\$2,764.82
Travelling allowances	727.80
Overtime	897.51
Air fares	708.00

596 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

This information is confidential to the board and the applicant.

597 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

Payments made by the NT Primary Producers Board to its chairman for work undertaken on the NADC property:

Fees	\$1,510.00
Travelling allowance	1,061.00
Air fares	<u>384.80</u>
	<u>\$2,955.80</u>

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ASKED IN FIRST SESSION

598 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

See the answer to question No. 553.

599 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Did the chairman of the Primary Producers Board have written authorisation from the receiver or the secured creditors of NADC to buy and sell assets on the Willeroo-Scott Creek properties?

ANSWER

See the answer to question No. 553.

610 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

No outside persons were employed by the Primary Producers Board on the project.

611 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

See the answer to question No. 587.

612 Mr PERKINS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

See the answer to question No. 583.

710 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

Yes.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ASKED IN FIRST SESSION

711 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

No assets have been acquired or come under the control of the Primary Producers Board as a result of the involvement in the Willeroo-Scott Creek properties, beyond an interest in the harvest of produce by virtue of a crop lien.

712 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

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

ANSWER

Yes.

742 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

1. Andrew Coward	M/O 1	\$19,108 p.a. + \$500 p.a.
Peter Murphy	M/O 2	\$19,799 p.a. + \$500 p.a.
David Rubin	M/O 3	\$21,175 p.a.
Leighton Farrell	Priv. sec.	\$17,051 p.a. + \$500 p.a.
Chris Fenner	Priv. sec.	\$15,898 p.a. + \$200 p.a.
Bryce McNair	Priv. sec.	\$17,051 p.a. + \$250 p.a.
Gwen Nancarrow	Priv. sec.	\$15,898 p.a. + \$250 p.a.
Bob Thompson	Priv. sec.	\$14,979 p.a. + \$250 p.a.
Warren Martin	M/O 1	\$18,425 p.a.
Margaret Morris	M/O 2	\$19,799 p.a.
Maira Barton	M/Secretary	\$10,579 p.a.
Margaret Bell	M/Secretary	\$11,779 p.a.
Patricia Dameglio	M/Secretary	\$11,183 p.a.
Nan Dondas	M/Secretary	\$10,274 p.a.
Michele Kurczewski	M/Secretary	\$11,183 p.a.
Kathy Southon	M/Secretary	\$11,183 p.a.
Joan Aitken	Steno/sec. Gr. 1	\$ 9,527 p.a.
Lorna Corbitt	A3	\$ 9,191 p.a.
Sue Ehrlich	A1	\$ 6,607 p.a.
Liz Evans	A1	\$ 8,018 p.a.
Kathy Vanrangelrooy	A1	\$ 7,767 p.a.
Brian Payne	Driver	\$ 8,774 p.a.
2. Peter Hansen	Priv. sec.	\$15,898 p.a. + \$500 p.a.
Joy Hooper	Priv. sec.	\$14,057 p.a. + \$500 p.a.
Bev Whitby	M/Secretary	\$ 9,975 p.a.

758 Mr OLIVER to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Are any means tests applicable to Aboriginal Legal Aid Service?

ANSWER

The North Australian Aboriginal Legal Aid Service has advised there is no means test.

826 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

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

ANSWER

Late in 1976 approval was sought from and granted by the Darwin Reconstruction Commission for the upgrading of cyclone damaged premises at lot 620, Mitchell Street, Darwin.

Whilst the permit granted related to residential use, the premises were occupied as offices.

The government recognises that it has inherited many anomalies in town planning and is attempting with the town plan under review to rationalise the pattern of land use in Darwin.

827 Mr COLLINS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

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

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

ANSWER

The Minister for the Northern Territory arranged for two senior forestry officers from Queensland to visit Darwin and examine the report of May 1978 of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Expenditure relating to the Northern Territory forestry program. It is expected that the minister will make the report of the Queensland forestry officers available to the NT government on a confidential basis.

The Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission which now has control of the forestry function is currently examining the report by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Expenditure and will also examine the report from Queensland when this becomes available. The attitude of the NT government will be determined after consideration of recommendations from the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission.

830 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. What is the estimated cost of new and replacement works required to bring public utility systems up to a reliable standard where maintenance costs will be at a reasonably low level?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ASKED IN FIRST SESSION

2. Will this include such items as new treatment plants, major augmentation of systems where these can be foreseen as being required in the near future, new control system where economic analyses show that these could reduce operating costs, replacement of pumps, tanks, treatment plants, etc, where these are nearing the end of their economic life?

ANSWER

In the operation of public utility systems, maintenance and replacement programs are constantly being reviewed and implemented, along with construction of major new works to ensure that the community receives an adequate service. This procedure is followed in the Northern Territory.

No firm estimates are available for replacement works to bring water supply and sewerage systems up to a reliable standard. A notional figure of \$10,000,000 is suggested as an order of cost of outstanding work. Included in this figure is an item of \$5,000,000 which may be necessary to replace or repair sanitary sewers in Darwin where deterioration of rubber rings in the joints due to bacterial attack is causing excessive infiltration of ground water into sewers and hence flooding of the system during the wet season. The full extent of the problem is being assessed.

A forward planning section has been formed in the Water and Sewerage Division to carry out planning for new works which are necessary to keep up with population growth and maintain an efficient system. Forward plans have not yet been completed. However, included in proposals for capital works so far evaluated is \$25,000,000 for expansion of the Darwin water supply system over the next decade. This figure does not include treatment proposals for which no decision has yet been reached.

831 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

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

ANSWER

1. Date	Request additional police	No. approved and date
20- 3-1973	90	90 2- 5-1973
13-11-1973	6	-
	-	6 16- 4-1974
17- 5-1974	35	-
19- 6-1974	35	-
1- 7-1974	2	-
31- 7-1975	3	-
	-	38 3-10-1975
2- 4-1975	13	4 9- 4-1975
	-	9 16-10-1975
16- 1-1976	12	-
26- 2-1976	To increase establishment for 1976-1977 to 640	-
13- 4-1976	43	-
20- 5-1976	172	-
2- 7-1976	31	31 4- 7-1976

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ASKED IN FIRST SESSION

17- 9-1976	20	-	
26-10-1976	52	-	
28- 7-1977	193	-	
29- 7-1977	20	20	15-11-1977
29- 7-1977	50	-	
	-	21	21- 4-1978
	-	21	21- 6-1978

2. 510.

3. 469.

837 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

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

ANSWER

1. One.
2. Two.
3. Waiting time for elective treatment is 11 to 12 months, but emergency treatment is provided immediately.
4. Two - however, one of these was absent on maternity leave.
5. There has been a decrease in waiting time of between 2 and 3 months since 1 July 1977.

840 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

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

ANSWER

1. In accordance with normal practice, this information is considered to be confidential and therefore cannot be released.
2. The three loans made were for -
\$120,000 at 5% per annum initially;
\$108,000 at 6% per annum initially;
\$150,000 at 5% per annum initially.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ASKED IN FIRST SESSION

3. The Rural Adjustment Scheme will be funded from the allocation to the Northern Territory Development Corporation. Details will be announced following presentation of the 1978-1979 budget.

874 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

1. Has the Northern Territory Electricity Commission spent money in taking out workers' compensation insurance privately for its employees?
2. If so, how much?
3. With whom is the insurance being taken out?

ANSWER

1. As part of the government's policy of placing each department's costs upon that department and as a commercial body, the Northern Territory Electricity Commission has, in order to protect itself and the public servants under its control, taken out an insurance cover against its liability under the Compensation (Commonwealth Government Employees) Act.
2. The premium will be approximately \$315,000 payable quarterly.
3. The cover is placed with the Darwin branch of National Employers' Mutual General Insurance Association Limited.

2 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

1. Is a foreshore study being carried out in the Vestey's Beach area and, if so, by whom?
2. What is the exact area being studied, when was the study commenced and when is it expected to be completed?
3. Who made the decision to proceed with the extension to the boat ramp adjacent to the NT Water Ski Association club house on Vestey's Beach?
4. Who is the patron of the NT Water Ski Association?
5. Why was this work on the foreshore approved when consideration of other proposed works in the Vestey's Beach area is being deferred until the completion of the foreshore study?

ANSWER

1. A foreshore study is being undertaken in the Vestey's Beach area by an environmental team in the Department of Construction, Melbourne.
2. In the Vestey's Beach area, the study area includes all land on the beach side of East Point Road from (and including) Bullocky Point to the cliffs at Fannie Bay gail. The study commenced in January and a draft text has been compiled; a final report, being basically the same as the draft, is anticipated by the Department of Lands and Housing in August or September.
3. The boat ramp adjacent to the NT Water Ski Association club house was proposed by the NT Port Authority, and is a public facility, after discussion with the Planning Branch, the Darwin City Corporation, the Department of Transport and Works, the NT Water Ski Association, Darwin Power Boat Club, Trailer Boat Club, Darwin Sailing Club and Deep Sea Fishermen's Association. The need for the facility was set

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ASKED IN FIRST SESSION

out in a NT Port Authority report dated April 1977 and is consistent with the findings of a preliminary study in foreshore problems of Darwin (March 1976) sponsored by the Darwin City Corporation, the NT Port Authority and the soil conservation section of the former Department of the Northern Territory and the present environmental, planning and coastal management study mentioned in paragraph 1.

4. The patrons of the NT Water Ski Association are Messrs Roger Steele and Roy Barden.
5. The boat ramp project was cleared environmentally before other proposed works, as the 1976 study mentioned in paragraph 3 explicitly dealt with ramps as the constituted foreshore problems. Other proposed works are subject to the current study and proponents will be advised when the recommendations from that study are provided by the environmental team.

7 Mr VALE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can he advise when all school dental clinics will be staffed and operational?

ANSWER

The issue of school dental clinics has been raised in this House on just about every occasion that we have sat and, on each occasion, there has been some tedious reason as to why the school dental units were not in operation. It is very pleasing for me to be able to say that, since a fortnight ago, all the school dental units in the Northern Territory have been staffed and are in operation.

8 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Can the honourable gentleman confirm that, if a minister misleads the Assembly and pleads misadvice for his government, that ends his obligation to this parliament, or does he agree that the parliament should be advised of what action is taken by the government in relation to the officer who has provided the misleading information?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I see that question as requesting an opinion and I am not prepared to answer it, pursuant to Standing Orders.

9 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Is there a welfare officer available to fill the vacancy at Gove and has the minister given consideration to appointing a social worker in that area?

ANSWER

In answer to the second part of the question first, I have not given consideration to the appointment of a social worker for Gove. The honourable member has raised the matter with me this week and I think his argument has quite a lot of weight. I will take the matter up with the department and have it studied by experts in that field.

It is true that there has been no welfare worker in Nhulunbuy during the period of leave of the officer who is posted to that place. As a result of representations from the honourable member, I have taken action to ensure that there is someone there at this time. It is my understanding that that appointment has now been made.

10 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Did he enter into any discussions at any time with the Prime Minister and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs concerning changes to implement the local government councils in Aboriginal communities and, if so, I would like to know the actual changes proposed and when?

ANSWER

The honourable member for MacDonnell accused the Prime Minister, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and myself of a conspiracy to introduce local government into Aboriginal communities. I have already indicated to the press, in answer to this charge of a conspiracy, that I have certainly had conversations with the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs in relation to the extension of local government to Aboriginal communities.

It seems to me that local government is what Aboriginal communities have been aspiring to now for several years. Many Aboriginal communities have incorporated associations which they call councils and these carry out local government-type work. It seems to me that the Commonwealth government up to now has been retrograde in not providing, through amendments to the previous Local Government Ordinance, the facilities for these local government councils which are incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Ordinance to become proper municipalities under the Local Government Ordinance. We propose to introduce amendments to the ordinance at this session to enable those communities that wish to take advantage of this legislative situation.

I emphasise that it will be purely on a voluntary basis. It need not be an Aboriginal community; it could be a community such as Mataranka. I spoke to representatives of the Mataranka Progress Association some months ago and they expressed enthusiasm about the idea of a less sophisticated form of local government than that which prevails in Darwin and Alice Springs. It is completely consistent with the policies of this government that, self-government having been devolved on the Northern Territory, we want to devolve as much responsibility as possible on people in local communities to make decisions that affect them closely. We want to make the decisions that affect the Northern Territory and we believe the Australian government should make the decisions that affect all of Australia. That is the policy of this government; there is no conspiracy. The honourable member for MacDonnell is, as usual, only attempting to foment unrest, to destroy a worthwhile initiative of this government and I just will not have it.

Mr COLLINS (Arnhem): A point of order, Mr Speaker. Referring to your previous rulings, I thought that adjournment debates are not to be made in answer to questions.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

11 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

My question to the Chief Minister also concerns responsibility. Will the Chief Minister make a statement to the Assembly at these sittings, setting out this government's concept of ministerial responsibility to the parliament in relation to the provision of information to the Assembly?

Mr SPEAKER: I think this question should be disallowed under standing order 93. However, if the honourable Chief Minister chooses to answer it, he can do so.

Mr ISAACS: A point of order, Mr Speaker, I am sorry but I did not refer to any debate. I simply referred to ministerial responsibility in this parliament and the question of the provision of information to the Assembly. I mentioned no debate at all.

Mr SPEAKER: I will allow the question but in my opinion it gets back to the debate of yesterday. However, I will allow the question.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, this government will make what statements it wishes in this Assembly to keep the Assembly informed as and when it considers those statements to be necessary.

12 Mr DONDAS to TREASURER

Has any decision been made by the Lands Department to release land at the Marrara subdivision for recreational purposes? If so, when, and what will the procedure be for sporting and other organisations to acquire land for recreational purposes?

ANSWER

As honourable members will know, it has been the intention of the Department of the Northern Territory in the past to pass to the Corporation of the City of Darwin a parcel of land at Marrara for development in the form of a sporting complex. I am informed that an agreement has been reached or the city council has, together with the town planning section, agreed upon a development plan for the area. They have also agreed upon the possible location of a road through the area for the shifting of the Darwin airport terminal, if indeed it ever happens - let us hope it does. A survey request has been made for the lease to be drawn up, to be vested in the city corporation and it is hoped that that will be completed within two months.

13 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY and SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Can the minister say when details of grants from his department under budget allocations to community organisations will be available to members of the Assembly and to the public? In view of the fact that that announcement has not yet been made, can he advise us whether he or officers of his department made any information available to my predecessor, Mr Grant Tambling, to justify the following statement he made in the paper yesterday: "An increased number of voluntary and community organisations have been given grants in aid at figures substantially higher than in previous years", or was it just a stab in the dark by that person?

Mr SPEAKER: I would request honourable members to keep their questions as short as possible and not incur the wrath of the honourable member for Arnhem with adjournment speeches at this stage of the day.

ANSWER

I do not want to be unreasonable, particularly in respect of questions from the honourable member for Fannie Bay because her questions normally are very responsibly put. But the honourable member is asking me to tell the House what went on in Mr Tambling's mind and what was available to Mr Tambling. I would think that the opposition would be more aware than any other person in the Northern Territory how to go about gaining confidential information from departments.

What I would like to say though, Mr Speaker, is that I can well understand the honourable member wanting the announcements in relation to community grants being made available as soon as possible. The usual pattern, particularly with people whose funds run out at the end of July, is a long waiting period between the end of July and when the first cheque comes through during the supply period. The difficulty in this case, Mr Speaker, has been the enormous number of applications which means that the limited number of departmental officers have to go through each and every application bit by bit. Wherever possible, they have to speak to the people who have made application to determine that justice is done, having regard to the fact that money is limited in this field and of course the large number of applications.

As for where Mr Tambling might get the information, of course the increase in the amount of community grants is contained in those documents. All he would have to do is some elementary arithmetic and he would know that more people are going to get money.

14 Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

A report on the Northern Territory forestry program from the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Expenditure was given in May of this year. Will officers of the Northern Territory government be given the opportunity to comment on that report?

ANSWER

The answer, Mr Speaker, is if they wish so, yes.

15 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In His Honour's address to the House he mentioned talks which have taken place with the Corporation of the City of Darwin regarding a performing arts centre. My question is, could he indicate what proposals, as to sites, have been discussed for that performing arts centre?

ANSWER

In company with my colleague, the honourable Treasurer, and senior officers of both of our departments, almost the full town council of the city corporation and its officers, we had a half-day conference, I think it was during the course of last week if I remember rightly - time tends to confuse me these days - to canvass that and many other issues. The agreement now is that officers of our respective departments, including officers from the department of my colleague, the Minister for Transport and Works, will do a detailed examination of the city council's proposals, both in respect of the performing arts centre and the town hall complex and such other matters as the proposed Smith Street mall, a multistorey car parking facility and all of the other initiative which the council has which necessarily will involve funding from this government and, of course, advice from officers of this government. I cannot give a specific answer to the question because those details have not yet been thrashed out at officer level.

16 Mr OLIVER to CHIEF MINISTER

Many people are trying to discharge mortgages on government homes which they are buying and not meeting with much success. Can this matter be expedited, even by some interim measure?

ANSWER

This matter has been brought to my attention, I think by the honourable member for Alice Springs himself, in the past few weeks. The Department of Law of the Northern Territory government has attempted to resolve the situation. I believe it has in fact now been resolved.

It was first brought to our attention during July by solicitors who were concerned that sales of homes over which the Commonwealth had a mortgage could not proceed to settlement because of the transfer of powers. There was apparently no Commonwealth functionary appointed in the Northern Territory to sign the discharges and, indeed, although the mortgages of course were still in the name of the Commonwealth, the properties had at least notionally been transferred to the Northern Territory government.

So we had one of those rather complex situations that governments seem to be able to find themselves in. A telex was then sent without delay to the Attorney-General of the Commonwealth requesting that a functionary be appointed in the Northern Territory. There was some delay in a response to this and indeed the Attorney-General appeared to be loath to appoint such a functionary. However, I understand a procedure has now been worked out by the Department of Law with the Attorney-General's Department of the Commonwealth and I understand that discharges of mortgages are now able to be given.

17 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has a lease agreement yet been signed between V.B. Perkins and Company and the Northern Territory Port Authority?

ANSWER

The answer is no. I would not want to pour buckets on the legal firm that is advising Perkins but it does seem to me that they could be a little more cooperative with the Department of Law in some of the clauses that are involved in the lease and, as soon as these people themselves get a bit livelier, perhaps the lease can be executed.

18 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can the honourable minister advise me whether there are any plans to replace the existing demountable building used as a children's ward at Katherine Hospital?

ANSWER

As I recall, there is a proposal for the 1980-1981 year to replace the demountable unit being used in Katherine as a children's ward with a 32-bed ward of permanent construction. I would make the point, though, that at this stage it is only a proposal and it will be subject to financial considerations at that time.

19 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for HEALTH

Is he aware that effluent from the Howard Springs dump is seeping into Pandanus Creek at the 17-mile and that residents of this area have been drawing water for some years from the creek? It is supposed to be a dry dump but it is not being used as such because wet rubbish is going into it.

ANSWER

I am not aware of that but I will make an effort to get a report from the department.

20 Mr VALE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can the minister inform the House when he expects the new Construction Safety Ordinance to come forward?

ANSWER

The regulations that pertain to the new Construction Safety Ordinance on which my colleague the Minister for Transport and Works has laboured for some time are in the final stages of drafting. They will go to His Honour the Administrator in about two weeks and they should hopefully be in effect in mid-October.

21 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

When will the route of the proposed Fannie Bay arterial road be available for inspection and comment by the people of Darwin?

ANSWER

It is my wish to make plans available for all the proposed changes to intersections and road constructions, particularly in the Darwin area, at the end of September. To this end, there will be a meeting held on the 25th of this month with city council aldermen and some of the engineers and professional people who are doing the design and drawings. I would hope that those plans will definitely be available by the end of September.

22 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has any decision been taken on the future of the Kookaburra aircraft? Will it be restored and kept in the Territory or will it leave the Territory on a temporary basis for other states to see it?

ANSWER

I cannot really answer any of those questions. I would like to say, though, that the whole issue of the Kookaburra has been blown completely out of proportion.

The stance I have taken right from the start was that the aircraft remains were to be taken from the place where they were found and put into safe storage until such time as we could determine the future of those remains. The reason for taking that decision was purely and simply to protect the remains from vandalism and from souvenir hunters once the exact location was known. I have given numerous interviews to the media right throughout this country and I have maintained that, if Mr Smith would only extend to me the courtesy of contacting me - I cannot find him - instead of imputing all sorts of hideous motives to the Northern Territory, the Museums and Art Galleries Board and this government as to the future of that aircraft, then we could talk about it like reasonable and rational people. We could discuss what facilities he has, where he would store it and under what conditions it would be made available to the public if it went to New South Wales.

Certainly, I have acknowledged in the media that New South Wales has an interest in the aircraft because that is where it came from; that is where the crew came from. I just want to talk to them about it. I also say that the Northern Territory has a very strong interest in the remains of that aircraft. This is where it was found; this is where the drama took place. The aircraft is protected as an object of interest to Northern Territory people under the Native and Historical Objects and Areas Preservation Ordinance. It is specifically provided for in the regulations under that law.

I believe the Territory and the state of New South Wales could well argue almost equally as to rights in respect of that aircraft. There is no principle that, where an object belonging to another country or a craft which originally came from another country or another state is found in another area, it must be returned. Let me cite the many historical ships that have been wrecked off the Australian coastline which came from countries right throughout the world and are protected by Australian statute. There is no suggestion that those objects be returned to England or Germany or Holland. They become objects of historical interest to the country in which they were wrecked and the country in

which they were found. That is standard practice and I believe that could apply equally well in this case.

23 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

The minister made an announcement regarding an inquiry into the fishing industry which is long overdue. Will he take up, as a specific reference to that inquiry, the taking of jenny crabs in Northern Territory waters, bearing in mind that they are protected in Queensland and afforded no protection here?

ANSWER

I will take the matter up with the fisheries officers. The subject matter at hand is a review of barramundi fishing because of certain difficulties experienced in stocks during this current fishing season.

24 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has a program been formulated for the cleaning up of government-owned land in the Darwin area?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any specific program that has been laid down listing the blocks and the time scale in which each will be cleaned up. There have been funds provided in the budget for cleaning and maintaining vacant government blocks in the Darwin area. If any honourable member has vacant government blocks in his electorate and feels they should be cleaned up, he could relay the numbers of those blocks to either myself or my department and they will get onto the job of cleaning them up.

25 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

In view of his answer to the previous question that the plans for the Fannie Bay arterial road will be available for inspection at the end of September, can he tell us whether these are the same plans that have been used in discussions with the people of Kulaluk in order to convince them of the need and the desirability of this road? Further, what were the results of those discussions?

ANSWER

In respect of the connector road, the actual drawings may not be exact because a survey has not taken place. Obviously, in a draft sketch, certain lines go on the map. Those discussions are still continuing and it is believed that we will be able to assist the community at Kulaluk with the provision of some services. We believe they will agree to a certain location for that road.

26 Mr DONDAS to MINISTER for HEALTH

When will the new Casuarina Hospital open and is work proceeding to schedule?

ANSWER

My information seems to differ from that of the honourable member for Nightcliff who may have better information because that is her speciality, I believe. The information that I have from the department is that they anticipate patients being admitted to Casuarina Hospital in early 1980

and that the construction is proceeding to plan. The only hitch we have with construction at this stage is that the central laboratory is three months behind the proposed construction timetable. It would appear that that will not be finished in time for the opening but that will not affect the opening.

27 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of the poor answer he has given on the other question I asked, I have a further question. Does he deny that he has reached an agreement with the Prime Minister and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs to provide a package deal for Aboriginal communities in respect of local government laws?

ANSWER

To the best of my recollection I have never spoken to the Prime Minister about the subject of local government for Aboriginal people. I cannot make as categorical statement as I would like. I will not say that I have never written to him about it because I may have; if I have, I cannot remember it. But I am sure I have never spoken to the Prime Minister about the subject of local government for Aboriginal people.

28 Mrs LAWRIE to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Could he advise if it is intended to grant a concessional rate to pensioners in the Northern Territory for the registration and insurance of motor vehicles? I can assure him that the increased rates are causing some distress.

ANSWER

This matter is under consideration and we have done certain sums. There are something like 876 pensioners who drive vehicles in the Northern Territory. That is a formula figure rather than exact. This is a very difficult question for the government. We realise that certain concessions do apply in some states of Australia. In fact, most states apply some concessions to different types of pensioners. We are still wrestling with the problem and have not finally decided exactly what we should do. Part of the government's policy has been that the units of administration do not offer subsidies. The cross-subsidisation that existed between departments in the past has caused quite a number of problems and it is our intention that the government try to operate its departments on true accounting performance.

29 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What is the demand for residential land in Alice Springs? As it is now twelve months since the last auction, can the minister advise when the next auction is to be held and will the general public, as well as developers and or contractors, have the opportunity of obtaining a site for homes?

ANSWER

The last residential auction in Alice Springs was held on 11 August 1977. At that time ten restricted and ten unrestricted lots were offered, and four and three lots respectively were sold. Those lots passed in were made available as over-the-counter sales and since that time six unrestricted lots have been purchased but no further restricted lots have been sold. Hence, there are still some restricted and one unrestricted lots available in Alice Springs. Inquiry from the general public for

residential land in Alice Springs has been slow, as is evidenced by the fact that six restricted lots are still available, whereas it would appear there is some interest from developers for unrestricted land. The department is currently investigating the desirability or otherwise of making the above seven lots available at a future unrestricted auction.

30 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Has consideration been given and any decision reached as to the future use of the Fannie Bay gaol site in view of the anticipated completion of the Berrimah gaol next year?

ANSWER

The honourable member's question really borders on two portfolios: my own and that of the honourable Minister for Community Development, in his role of responsibility for prisons - and certainly they will have a say in when they want to vacate the place. No particular decision has been made to my knowledge as to the long-term future of the Fannie Bay gaol site, although the National Trust has expressed some interest, of course, and concern that the buildings within those awful tin walls remain as historically preserved buildings for the Northern Territory. Again that is a matter, I think, that comes within the area of my colleague, the Minister for Community Development.

31 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can the minister inform the House of progress in the preparation of the new mining legislation?

ANSWER

About four weeks ago the compilation of the new mining legislation was completed as a draft and this has been circulated to the state governments and to industry for comment before it goes into a final draft. I would anticipate that the final draft would be ready by the end of October.

32 Mrs LAWRIE to TREASURER

Can he indicate what money will be available on priority for the erection of single officers' dwellings within the allocation to the Housing Commission? Do these dwellings have any priority?

ANSWER

Off hand, Mr Speaker, no - I cannot answer the question at all. I would have to seek such information from the Housing Commission and, if the honourable member can wait, I will present it next week.

33 Mr DONDAS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Due to criticism expressed by the Teachers Federation regarding library cuts, can the honourable minister advise me of the true position of those proposed library cuts?

ANSWER

It is a question that would take some time to answer fully; I hope you will bear with me, Mr Speaker. Before I answer the question, I must say that I was sitting here waiting for a question from the opposition, more particularly I would think from the shadow minister for education, the honourable member for Arnhem. I must say that in all the travels I have

made around schools, all the public meetings I have been to, all the conferences I have attended and all the openings of schools and buildings, I have never once seen the gentleman take any interest in education whatsoever.

Now for the answer to the question, let us look at a comparison between the Northern Territory and its nearest equivalent state - a Labor state, Tasmania. The allocation to the Northern Territory for the financial year 1978-1979 is \$70,000. Applying the formula of Tasmania to its schools, as applied to the Northern Territory, we would find that the one new school, Sadadene, would receive \$5,000 under the Tasmanian formula and the application of the Tasmania per capita to NT enrolments would result in \$35,000. So the Labor state of Tasmania, applying its rules in the Northern Territory, would have provided the grand sum of \$40,000. So much for that.

Now let us look at the real position of state secondary schools in the Northern Territory in relation to these drastic cuts in library services. We have heard expounded loud and long by members of the federation, and probably with the best of motives in many instances, the target of library books per capita as provided by the Schools Commission system and recommendations. There are two areas to those recommendations however, Mr Speaker, which the Teachers Federation declines to make public. One of those is the basic number recommended for funding by the Commonwealth to government schools. The other is the target number recommended for funding from all sources, including parents and teachers associations, school councils, fetes and so on.

What the Teachers Federation has been hammering down the public's throat, Mr Speaker, are the figures related to target recommendations - not to the recommendations for basic government funding. What is our position in relation to that? Let us look at Casuarina, as an example. It has an enrolment of approximately 1,000; its total item number is 10,000. The Schools Commission recommendation for that school would have been 6,300. It is 3,700 over the basic recommendation of the Schools Commission. Its target recommendation would have been 15,000 but that is from all sources. Incidentally, while we are on Casuarina, Mr Speaker, the person who has sung loudest and longest about these vicious cuts, the librarian there, found at the beginning of the year that he is 1,000 books short. The school had lost 1,000 volumes at the beginning of the year. He recovered 300 and abandoned the rest, and yet he is concerned about these cuts. Look at Nightcliff, with an establishment of approximately 900. It has 12,000 books. The Schools Commission recommendation would have been 6,000.

Mr Speaker, the Department of Education had a very difficult decision to make. It recognised a necessity for a massive increase in repairs and maintenance which was done. The Teachers Federation had constantly and quite rightly pointed out the state of rural schools, schools in the bush, some of which are in your electorate, Mr Speaker. Money had to be spent on them and money will be spent on them. It had to assess, in light of that priority as demanded by the federation - and I repeat, quite rightly - where, if anywhere in the education system, could a stand-still apply. That area was in libraries. I have clearly demonstrated that library services can, in fact, weather that for a year. I do not like it; I never like to see a stand-still and I believe there should indeed be an inquiry perhaps by someone from an education system outside of the Northern Territory, looking at library formulas for the Northern Territory, after the transfer of that function in July next year. That is something I would be quite happy to arrange to be undertaken. I think we need to come up with our own formulas and not mindlessly apply formulas put forward by other people. But it is quite wrong to say that library services in schools, particularly in secondary schools in the Northern

Territory, are in a poor state. They are above the recommended levels and above the national average. There is no doubt about that at all.

34 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will an environmental impact statement be prepared before the construction of the Fannie Bay connector road? If so, when does he anticipate this will be completed? If not, why not?

ANSWER

Whatever is done in respect of these roads, I am sure my officers are aware of the requirements of the federal act. As everybody knows, there is no local legislation and, if it is a requirement, no doubt they will proceed to fulfil it. Certainly, for most of the major projects throughout the Northern Territory environmental impact statements are needed and, of course, they are obtained.

35 Mr VALE to TREASURER

As minister in charge of gaming, can he indicate whether a headline story in the Northern Territory News on Friday 8 September, "NT Government Admits Bookie Blunder" and "Government Admits Fault - Policies Harming Bookies" was a fair reflection of the government's present policy position?

Mrs O'NEIL (Fannie Bay): A point of order, Mr Speaker. I believe that question is asking for an opinion.

Mr ISAACS (Opposition Leader): As I read general rules, standing order 93 says: "Questions should not ask Ministers for an expression of opinion". That question clearly did, so it should be ruled out of order.

Mr SPEAKER: The standing order does not say that questions "must" not. There is no point of order.

ANSWER

Mr PERRON (Treasurer): As I understand the honourable member's question, he was asking whether in fact the news item reflected government policy and I do not see that that is really so much a matter of opinion.

Those news headings obviously caused me some concern. The stories the honourable member refers to were run in the Northern Territory News on 6 and 7 September and they concerned the financial affairs of bookmakers in Darwin. On 6 September the newspaper claimed that a bookmakers' strike could result unless the Darwin Turf Club succumbed to the demands that the club reduce the stand-up fee. The story developed claims that bookmakers were facing problems because of the various taxes and charges they had to meet. The following day, the newspaper - that is the Northern Territory News - back-tracked on the original story and said that, despite their predicament, Darwin's on-course bookmakers had made it clear that they would not strike. The same story made the statement, and I quote: "There is no way the Darwin Turf Club can lower fees unless there is a rebate on the turnover tax by the government".

Mr Speaker, I sought comment from the Northern Territory News' sporting writer, Mr Fred McCue, and I issued a statement along the following lines, and I quote: "Mr Perron said the interim Gaming Commissioner, Mr Barry Davis, was investigating the position and talking with the relevant parties. Mr Perron said the government was closely monitoring returns

to gauge their effect on the industry and said he did not rule out a review of the government's previous decisions. Such a review would also need to take account of the imposts by turf clubs on on-course bookmakers. The charges faced by bookmakers, both those from the government and from the clubs, are obviously the cause of current unrest".

Mr Speaker, that statement amazingly drew the headlines: "NT Government Admits Bookie Blunder" and also "Government Admits Fault - Policies Harming Bookies". Of course, these admissions were not made at all. I responded in a responsible fashion to a media query and indicated that the position was being monitored. It was a classic case, Mr Speaker, of misreporting.

36 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can the minister say when a psychiatrist will be appointed to the Alice Springs Hospital?

ANSWER

There has been a very strong demand in Alice Springs for some time now to have a psychiatrist established in the town. I would go on to say that there has been a need for some time in Alice Springs to establish a position of this nature and it has been extremely difficult. One of the difficulties - and we have discussed it in this House many times, Mr Speaker - is that professional people of this calibre are loath to move away from the eastern seaboard and the comforts of southern life to come to the outback to take up jobs of this nature. The Department of Health, in fact, advertised in Britain and Canada to try to get a starter to take up the job in Alice Springs. I am pleased to say they have been successful and the new occupant will take up his position in a few weeks.

37 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr Speaker, I am referring not to a previous debate but to previous questions asked and answered. Has the minister ordered an investigation into how it was that he provided misleading answers to the Assembly in relation to the Willeroo-Scott Creek purchase?

ANSWER

I think there has probably been enough debate about the matter of yesterday and, as far as I am concerned, all future questions of that nature can go back onto notice.

38 Mr ISAACS to TREASURER

Will the Treasurer table the report of the Auditor-General for the year ended 30 June 1978, in view of the fact that that document has already been tabled in the federal parliament last Wednesday?

ANSWER

Yes, I will undertake to have copies of the report tabled for all members of the Assembly in these sittings, if they are available.

39 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What is done to ensure that tinned and other preserved fruit under the control of Emergency Services for distribution in emergencies is kept in a current state of edibility? When food is discarded, what happens to it?

ANSWER

All food held by Emergency Services is subject to a shelf-life period as determined by the government supply authorities and the manufacturers. They are also subject to periodical inspection by health inspectors. When food is discarded it is taken to the local garbage dump and dumped under supervision.

40 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can he confirm that his department is preparing a planning proposal for the area formally occupied by the Arafura Hostel and can he tell us when that proposal will be available for inspection by the public?

ANSWER

Yes, Mr Speaker, there are development proposals being prepared now for the site formally occupied by the Arafura Hostel and I understand that these proposals will be available by the end of this month for discussion by the various interested parties.

41 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Could he indicate to this House where the power house will be situated which is to supply electricity to the uranium province?

ANSWER

That is a very difficult question. I understand that initially the uranium developers would have their own power supply but ultimately we would expect that Darwin will provide the power for the uranium province. However, as to any exact site, we would have some difficulty in giving an answer to that question today.

42 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will he table the Snowy Mountains Electricity Commission report into the Ord, about which he spoke last week?

ANSWER

I am not sure that I can get my hands on the one copy that I did see. I will have to come back a bit later in the day on that one.

43 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can the minister inform me when the Gove dental clinic can expect to have an additional dentist?

ANSWER

I believe that in March last year both the dentists at Gove resigned, or resigned subsequently to March, and the Gove community has been without a dentist for some time now. However, the Department of Health has been able to have somebody there on a temporary basis and they anticipate having a permanent dentist for the Gove community in the next couple of weeks.

44 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Can he advise the House when holiday pay due to employees of Scott Creek-Willeroo will be paid for the four months period when the Primary Producers Board was in control and can he advise why the Primary Producers Board has furnished group certificates to some of the former employees but not all of them?

ANSWER

I think I indicated to the House the other day that any questions dealing with the subject of Willeroo should be placed on notice. I think we have debated the matter fairly extensively and answered many questions, and that is a reasonable proposition.

45 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can the minister inform the House of any recent developments in off-shore oil exploration near the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

There have been some recent developments. As honourable members on both sides of the House would know, there was a fairly extensive drilling program conducted by a consortium of companies on the islands to the west of the Northern Territory coast, which is in the province of the Northern Territory mines branch administration. Three holes were drilled there. Two of them were barren and the third hole showed some indication of oil but not sufficient for the company to go on with an immediate program at this stage. However, I believe they are coming back. Subsequently to this, there has been an upsurge in interest in the last two or three months by other oil prospecting companies who have shown an interest in Territory shores and we are hopeful that something will come of this.

One other further development that will hopefully enable the Northern Territory to promote and encourage oil exploration in our area is the hope that we will be able to enter into an agreement with the Commonwealth government along the lines of the states, whereby the Commonwealth will devolve upon the Northern Territory the agency operation of issuing oil permits over off-shore areas adjacent to the Northern Territory.

46 Mr PERKINS to TREASURER

Why were no funds allocated in the NT budget to commence the building of the Yulara village at Ayers Rock? Is it a fact that the federal government will provide the funds to construct the new village? When will the building of the village commence and what other steps will be taken by the NT government to protect the current lessees and the local tourist industry in the period between the planning and the completion stage?

ANSWER

I can just touch on a small portion of that question and refer the balance of it to the honourable Chief Minister as most of it falls within his portfolio of parks and wildlife in the Territory. In relation to the funding of the village at Yulara, I mentioned in the budget speech that negotiations were being held with the Commonwealth on this very subject at this time. I explained in that speech why there was no funding specifically provided in the Territory's budget for that particular program.

Mr EVERINGHAM (Chief Minister): The principal reason why no funds could be allocated for the commencement of the construction of the Yulara tourist village near Ayers Rock at the present time is that the plans for the village have not yet been completed. I understand from the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission that the plans should be available for examination by interested parties hopefully by the end of this month. Usually, there does seem to be some delay in this sort of thing but I should say with some certainty that the plans should be there by the end of October. It is impossible to allocate funds where the plans are not available to be costed.

Certainly, we know that the construction of the village will cost quite a substantial sum of money and the Territory will be endeavouring to obtain as much of that money as possible from the Commonwealth. The Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission will, however, generally be responsible for the construction of the village as it has responsibility for the administration of the town site that has been proclaimed.

We hope that some work can be commenced on the construction of the village during the course of this financial year. Once the plans are available and tenders can be called, there is machinery whereby funds can be allocated during the course of this financial year towards the construction of the village. It is impossible to allocate any specific amount at the present time, although we think that perhaps something in the order of about \$0.5m should be able to be spent by the end of this financial year. We look forward to doing that; we realise that the provision of these facilities is most important to encourage the tourist industry which is such a mainstay of central Australia. We regard the whole project as very urgent and we are attempting to catch up on what has taken the Commonwealth since 1968 or 1969 to do anything about.

47 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Has consideration been given to the provision of a bus service in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

I believe the previous administration did examine the idea of providing a bus service for Alice Springs. That was postponed on several occasions because of the cost of providing the facilities. There is no definite intention at this stage to provide a bus service for Alice Springs. However, I am prepared to say that the department should examine the proposition again to see if it is feasible.

48 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Can he now confirm whether investigations into the re-scheduling and re-routing of public buses within the Darwin area have been completed?

ANSWER

I believe the study is almost completed. It hinges largely on the study of the interchange at Casuarina. When that is completed, we will see what the exact routes will be.

49 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for HEALTH

Has any further progress been made on the proposed introduction of a nurses aide course at Gove district hospital?

ANSWER

There has been some progress. The Commonwealth Department of Health proposed some 12 months ago to establish a nurses aide training scheme at the Gove hospital for the east Arnhem region. This was not as easy as it sounded because the establishment of a nurses aide training course in such a region had a bearing on the number of beds in the hospital. We have had to amend the regulations to the Hospitals Ordinance to enable us now to introduce the scheme. Originally, the nurses aide training scheme had to fit into an operation with a 50-bed hospital which is pretty difficult to do in the more remote parts of the Territory. Now that the regulations have been amended, I believe we will see a bit of action in this quarter.

Further to that, there is another development that I would very much like to see happen in the east Arnhem region in the next few years and it is very much allied to the nurses aide training scheme. I refer to the Aboriginal rural health workers scheme which I believe is complementary to the nurses aide training scheme. Honourable members may be aware that a special rural health training unit has been set up in Alice Springs by the Department of Health in the old Gillen motel. It has turned out to be a very successful enterprise and I believe full marks should go to the Department of Health for their initiative in this area and the way the project has been a success.

At this stage the department has not been able to get funds for another such training scheme to be established in the Top End. I believe it is important that we establish another training unit to cater for the rural areas. I would like to see one at Gove and I believe there should be one in the Darwin-Katherine region to take care of the rural areas that need to be serviced there. This proposal falls outside the normal funding guidelines and it is quite likely that this government will be going to the federal Ministers for Health and Aboriginal Affairs to seek a special allocation of funds to enable us to get on with this program. In any event the honourable member can be assured that we have his interests at heart and the interests of the people of Nhulunbuy.

50 Mr DOOLAN to CHIEF MINISTER

Is it a fact that the federal Councils and Associations Act will not be implemented in the Northern Territory and, if this is so, why not?

ANSWER

I think the honourable member for Victoria River should be asked to re-direct the question to a member of the federal parliament. It is impossible for me to give any answer on behalf of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs in the federal house who has responsibility for the administration of that act, as I understand it. To the best of my knowledge, that act has been proclaimed and brought into effect, and I have heard that at least one association, I think one in the Katherine area, has applied for incorpor-

ation under the act. Those are the only indications I can give but it is a question that should properly be asked of the federal minister.

51 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Will the proposed fire station at Parap for which there is an allocation in the Northern Territory budget be built at the Arafura Hostel site? If not, which site in the Parap area is proposed for this?

ANSWER

It is my understanding that the fire station will be constructed on the Arafura site. However, I would point out to the honourable member that there are some sketches that she should probably see before getting a six-gun out and having a shot.

52 Mr DONDAS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

What precautions are being taken to make sure that prospective Housing Commission tenants are not abusing the situation of reasonable rentals by owning private houses on which they are receiving a rental income?

ANSWER

At the time of application for Housing Commission accommodation a title search is conducted to ensure that a prospective tenant is not already a landowner within the particular region concerned and a further title search is undertaken at the time that the house is actually allocated. Should the Housing Commission tenant subsequently wish to purchase the house he is renting, a further title search is undertaken at the time of purchase to ensure that he does not own land in the region.

53 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is it a firm policy of his government to place all power reticulation lines in the Darwin area underground? If there is such a policy, can he inform us when the work of undergrounding powerlines might be completed?

ANSWER

My understanding of our policy is that new subdivision reticulation will go underground in future. Certainly, it would not be our policy to pull down all the poles around the place and put those lines underground. That would be far too expensive. As for the question about when the work might be completed, I would have some difficulty in providing an answer to that.

54 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

I have been personally appreciative of the new work on the Stuart Highway, as are all the people in the rural area. When will the painting of the white safety lines be done on the new Stuart Highway surface?

ANSWER

I am delighted at the appreciation of the honourable member. I think the line marking will be completed at the end of November. However, it must be understood that the line marking is a part of a period contract by an Adelaide contractor. It is not always possible to coordinate line marking with new work and you cannot line mark on new work until after a certain period.

55 Mr PERKINS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware that an Aboriginal named Billy Benn has been held in the gaol at Alice Springs for quite some time waiting for consideration of his parole or release at the pleasure of the Governor-General? If so, what steps will be taken to facilitate the conditional release of Mr Billy Benn?

ANSWER

The prerogative for mercy does not yet lie with the Northern Territory executive, nor with the Administrator of the Northern Territory nor the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly. I introduced legislation to cover this prerogative last week. When that legislation is passed, it will be possible for the Northern Territory executive to consider Billy Benn's position. In the meantime, any applications for his discharge should be referred to the Attorney-General of the Commonwealth of Australia.

56 Mr DONDAS to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is he aware that the Asian Development Bank is expected to undertake shortly a survey of agricultural prospects in Papua New Guinea, Fiji, the Solomon Islands, the Gilbert Islands, the Cook Islands and many other Pacific countries? Will the minister request this organisation to include the Northern Territory in its survey?

ANSWER

I have seen the article to which the honourable member alludes. However, I think it would be beyond my competence to ask the particular bank to conduct a survey or study in the Northern Territory. I understand that the honourable member for Stuart is on his way to Fiji via New Guinea. If he has a few moments to spare in New Guinea, he could perhaps talk to the bank over there and bring back some fresh information.

57 Mr ISAACS to CHIEF MINISTER

Is he aware of public criticism by the Western Australian Minister for Industrial Development that the Northern Territory government prematurely disclosed details of the Snowy Mountains Electricity Commission report into hydro-electricity for the Ord. Is this criticism correct and what action has the Chief Minister taken to acquaint the Western Australian minister of the facts?

ANSWER

My discussions on the matter of hydro-electricity production at the Ord River has been with the Premier of Western Australia, Sir Charles Court. It is my understanding that there is a very long way to go before any firm decisions can be reached as to whether it would be feasible for hydro-electricity to be generated from the Ord dam. It has yet to be determined whether, if such electricity can be generated in worthwhile quantities, the Western Australian government would be prepared to permit the Northern Territory to take advantage of that. After all, Western Australia would want power at Kununurra for any future sugar developments that it might plan there or any other industrial development. I understand the port at Wyndham is being redeveloped and presumably that will require a larger power supply than it presently has. My own view is that any firm understanding that the Northern Territory will be able to obtain power from the Ord is perhaps premature. I believe that discussions between Northern Territory officials, Western Australian officials and people from the Snowy Mountains Authority will need to go a long way before we

can reach any firm conclusions.

In the meantime, I think the Northern Territory Electricity Commission, which is very enthusiastically performing its task, may perhaps have raised public expectations somewhat. I certainly hope the Ord will be available for the generation of hydro-electric power to Darwin but it is only one of the options that the commission is considering at the present time.

58 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has a full report been compiled by the director of the Northern Territory National Trust with regard to historic buildings in the Darwin area and, if so, has cabinet made any decision based on that report?

ANSWER

The director of the National Trust of the Northern Territory is currently undertaking a complete review and, as I have indicated previously in this House to the same honourable member, this review will take some time. This is a compilation of a descriptive inventory of all buildings damaged during the cyclone and buildings which have deteriorated over the years throughout the Northern Territory and which are of significance to Northern Territory culture. There was a previous report in 1975 by Mr Clive Lucas, a Sydney architect, on the position as he saw it. A combination of all of this information will be made available by a formal cabinet submission in due course and this government, having regard to its priorities in all capital and budgetary matters, will then consider the extent to which it can go about preserving the buildings and making maximum use of them.

59 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

My question relates to the untidiness of part of the Vestey's Beach foreshore which is partly a result of the erection of a sewerage pumping station in the area. Will the minister undertake to have the excavation which resulted from the building of that pumping station cleaned up as soon as possible?

ANSWER

I share the honourable member's concern in this matter and I will ask my department to have a look at it as soon as possible.

60 Mr DONDAS to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can he advise if a decision has been made by cabinet to grant the Darwin Community College extra land adjacent to its present site for future development and expansion and, if so, when will this grant be effected?

ANSWER

A decision has been made to grant additional land to the Darwin Community College adjoining its current lease at Brinken. In that decision no particular boundaries were decided upon so as not to limit the planning options for the Brinken area generally. At present, negotiations are being held between the planners of the Darwin Community College and the planning unit of the Department of Lands and Housing with a view to reaching a consensus on the area of land to be added to the college's existing lease.

61 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

What steps are taken to make sure that equipment and machinery in government offices are not misused or used for private purposes at some cost to the Northern Territory government?

ANSWER

Under the Public Service Ordinance each chief executive officer is responsible for the general management and efficient conduct of business and activities of his department or unit of administration. This responsibility extends to the proper use of government equipment and machinery, and is enhanced by responsibilities as accountable officer under the Financial Administration and Audit Ordinance. From time to time directions are issued by the Public Service Commissioner and the under-treasurer in respect of the proper use of machinery, equipment and other assets. With the system of checks through investigations by the Public Service Commissioner's audit bureau and management review and consultant division and the Auditor-General, I am sure if there is any improper use it will be brought to notice and action taken to eliminate such practices.

62 Ms D'ROZARIO to CHIEF MINISTER

What arrangements have been made to transfer to the Northern Territory ombudsman investigations which are being undertaken by the federal ombudsman on behalf of Territory residents? In explanation, may I say that these investigations were referred to the federal ombudsman prior to the appointment of the Northern Territory ombudsman and were in relation to matters which have not yet been transferred to the Northern Territory government.

ANSWER

I understand that arrangements have been made administratively between the two ombudsmen but, rather than give the honourable member for Sanderson a vague answer to this question, I suggest that she put it on notice and I will supply the answer as soon as I possibly can.

ANSWER TO QUESTION

19 Mr TUXWORTH (Mines and Energy): The honourable member for Victoria River asked the other day whether I was aware that effluent from the Howard Springs dump is seeping into Pandanus Creek. I undertook to get a reply on the matter from the Department of Health. The reply is as follows: The Howard Springs dump is under the control of the Local Government and Community Services Division. The contours on the ground fall naturally and steeply approximately in a 1 to 5 ratio towards Pandanus Creek and the dump now partially involves the creek bed. The contractor, Mr Ray Jensen, who could not be contacted at the time of this inspection uses this gradient to dump material on piers. The creek bed is now dry but during the wet season contamination of the creek will occur both from leaching of the dumped material as well as scouring of the dump by water flowing into the creek. The present situation can be corrected by lifting back the dumped material from the creek bed to form a wall but this is no solution to the problem of leaching during the wet. To remove the garbage from the creek bed would take four to five days labour with a bulldozer. At this stage, there is no leaching but a problem could arise in the wet season and the best solution would be to remove the dump away from the water course.

To this end, I will take the matter up with my colleague. For the information of members, Mr Speaker, there is a photograph of the situation if anybody is interested in looking at it.

67 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Yesterday in the Assembly the minister confirmed that electricity charges are to increase early in the new year. Can the minister inform the Assembly when the increases are due to come into effect?

ANSWER

If I recall my remarks correctly, I suggested that no doubt the government and the commission would have to look at increases but, of course, we have not yet arrived at a stage where we might have to consider this. So I am unable to say when such increases might be looked at.

68 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Has the minister read the comment in yesterday's NT News concerning the forthcoming liquor bill? Can the minister confirm that he proposes to declare Darwin a dry area?

ANSWER

I can assure the honourable member that I have not seen the article and I would like to say to the House, Mr Speaker, that I value my life too much to even propose that such a thing would happen to the city of Darwin.

69 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to CHIEF MINISTER

In view of the increased sightings of crocodiles recently in the Finnis, at the mouth of Rapid Creek, in Frances Bay and after a dog attack in Bees Creek recently, what is being done by wildlife officers to monitor and control the situation now, to avoid any over-reaction in the event of a human being being attacked?

ANSWER

Since the cessation of hunting crocodiles in 1972, I am told by the Parks and Wildlife Commission people that they are less wary of man and large crocodiles are being more frequently sighted. The Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission, whilst aiming to conserve the crocodile population in remote areas, will also make every effort to protect people from crocodiles - I am very pleased to hear that, Mr Speaker. Problem crocodiles will be destroyed or removed from popular recreation areas. All public complaints are investigated. The crocodile which took several dogs at Bees Creek recently was, after considerable effort, trapped and transported to Yarrowonga Zoo. The animal which attacked two boats last week in the Finnis River will likewise be trapped. Wildlife officers are at the site of these attacks now and will make an intensive effort to locate that animal.

The Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission is anxious to avoid any people verses crocodile conflicts and is currently preparing an information brochure describing crocodile biology and behaviour and explaining how to take protective action in areas where crocodiles may occur. This publication will be widely distributed, Mr Speaker, throughout the Top End.

70 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Is the minister aware that last year Territorians were unable to watch a direct telecast of the Victorian football final? Is he aware that the reason given by the ABC was that a commercial channel in Brisbane had the rights? Is he further aware that exactly the same situation applied this

year in respect to the Sydney rugby league finals and yet Territorians were able to get a direct telecast? Will he undertake to approach the ABC to ensure that we receive a direct telecast of the Melbourne football matches, both on this coming Saturday and the following week?

ANSWER

I think the honourable member will be aware that at the last sittings the Chief Minister indicated that questions beyond the administrative competence of the ministers should be directed to those people concerned. In this regard I think the question should be directed to the federal minister. That is not to say that some representation should not be made on my part and I would be quite happy to make representations on behalf of Territorians in this matter.

71 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

Can he inform the House when the next auction of industrial land is to be conducted in Darwin?

ANSWER

No, off hand I cannot advise the honourable member the answer to that question. I can obtain that information and provide it to her privately if she wishes. I answered a similar question quite recently - I think it was at the last sittings - on another land auction in Darwin. I understood that industrial land may have been included in that answer but I am not sure; I will have to check up and see whether that was so or not.

72 Mr VALE to CHIEF MINISTER

Can he advise how many of the increase in police numbers announced in the budget will be based in central Australia?

ANSWER

I cannot advise the honourable member exactly how many of the increase in the police establishment will be based in central Australia. However, I am informed by the police authorities that a number of them will be based at stations such as Alice Springs, Tea Tree, I understand, and Tennant Creek, and there may be other areas which escape my mind at the moment. But I do understand there will be an allocation to central Australia from those numbers.

73 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for HEALTH

Will the minister advise whether the Department of Health will commence charging for community health centre and hospital outpatients' services after 1 January 1979?

ANSWER

I will try to get the information for the honourable member.

74 Mr OLIVER to MINISTER for HEALTH

Can the minister give me the guidelines in relation to airfares for people in the Northern Territory referred interstate for medical treatment?

ANSWER

The Department of Health has had a scheme for some time whereby they send to the southern states for treatment people who cannot receive a satisfactory level of health care within the Northern Territory. This particular action generally pertains to the specialist fields and the Department of Health has introduced a system whereby persons must be referred to southern hospitals by a specialist of the Northern Territory health service. Before the person can get to the specialist, of course, he must be referred by the departmental doctor to the specialist.

In the event of the department wishing to send people away, they will only agree to send people to Adelaide and Brisbane and this is upon the payment of a \$40 contribution towards the fare and the costs. I am not quite sure, and I have not been able to find out, why the department has selected Adelaide and Brisbane for these destinations. Perhaps they have an in-house agreement with the respective state authorities for providing services on the Northern Territory's behalf but it will be a matter that I will be raising with the department in the course of time. It has also been brought to my attention by people who have been sent south where, on a couple of occasions, they had been receiving treatment from Sydney and Melbourne but, because of the review of the Health Department's policy, they were now being transferred to Adelaide and Brisbane.

Mr Speaker, as soon as there is any more information available on the policy of the Health Department for transferring people interstate, I would be only too happy to let the honourable member know.

75 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

What is the finishing date of the Yirrkala School, when will the school be ready for occupation and will they have an opening day ceremony?

ANSWER

The Yirrkala school was the subject of a discussion between myself and my officers recently. I understand the school will be finished within the next month or so, that it should be occupiable this year and that there will be an official opening early next year. I will check those statements out for accuracy and inform the honourable member later.

76 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I ask this question on behalf of the honourable member for Arnhem. Is the minister aware that some Northern Territory teachers have not received payment for their services as lecturers in teacher training courses? Will he take action to investigate the matter with a view to ensuring that those teachers involved do receive the payment to which they are entitled?

ANSWER

The answers to the questions are no and yes. I am completely unaware that this happened, if indeed it has. This concerns me if in fact it has happened. I will most certainly check it out.

77 Mr HARRIS to CHIEF MINISTER

Has the Chief Minister received a reply from the federal Minister for Transport relating to the old railway rolling stock in the Salonika area?

ANSWER

Some time ago I sent a letter to the federal Minister for Transport. My letter was accompanied by illustrative photographs of the condition of the railway yards at Salonika. Whilst the Minister for Transport, Peter Nixon, was in Darwin for the recent ceremony associated with the opening of this session of the Assembly, I took the opportunity to put to him the point of view which I expressed in the letter. I said it was a disgraceful situation that the Commonwealth Railways should have left their premises in the way they did with rolling stock on the rails and with sleepers piled upon flat cars. If they had to store these items of rolling stock, they had a couple of miles of cutting in which they could store them between the yards and the wharf area. The Minister for Transport indicated that he was certainly sympathetic to the problem and he would be taking it up with Commonwealth Railways with a view to their clearing up the mess. I hope to receive formal communication from him in those terms within the course of the next few weeks.

78 Mr DOOLAN to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

Is this government prepared to assist residents of Daly River to erect levy banks to protect their homes and properties?

ANSWER

The short answer is that I do not know, because I do not know the exact nature of the problem. Certainly, if there is some area where we could provide assistance, I am quite sure we would be very pleased to look at it. If the honourable gentleman would like to drop me a note on it, I could start the official ball rolling.

79 Mr DONDAS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

When are the curriculum and media centres presently located at Nakara Primary School going to be transferred and is it likely to be before the commencement of the new school year for 1979?

ANSWER

The media centre should be transferred before the commencement of the school year 1979. The problem of space for the curriculum centre is being overcome by the use of demountables which, I understand, are being made available upon the completion of other more substantial buildings. I suppose the answer is yes, those classrooms will be made available for the purpose for which that school was originally built for the school year commencing next February.

80 Ms D'ROZARIO to MINISTER for LANDS and HOUSING

In view of the statement last session by the then Majority Leader that his government would end discrimination in the public service housing policy, what steps are in hand to provide public servant houses for married women public servants whose husbands are not employed in the public service

ANSWER

The subject of inequalities in the housing policy for public servants in the Northern Territory, which we have inherited from the Commonwealth on 1 July, has been the subject of an investigation and report by the Public Service Commissioner in association with his consultative council of public service unions and he is preparing a report for cabinet to consider with

a proposed new Northern Territory Public Service housing policy in it. Until such time as that document is received, and indeed endorsed or modified by cabinet, I understand the present arrangements will continue to apply.

81 Mr BALLANTYNE to MINISTER for MINES and ENERGY

Can the minister advise of progress in pollution control at the alumina plant at Gove?

ANSWER

I believe there has been an approach by the company to the pollution problem they had at Gove and that the company has introduced an adaptation process whereby they process the bauxite they are treating one further degree from, I believe, a sort of rubble content to a floury content, and they get less pollution by going that one step further. The company has introduced this process in the last few months. It is still in a development stage, for want of a better word, or a "breaking-in" stage, and there will be problems with it. But from all accounts the reports by the mines branch personnel indicate it is a much better process than the one that was previously being used and it results in a lot less red dust around the place. On the other aspect of pollution from the cooling water that is used and pumped into the creek, I believe the pollution in this particular area has been almost negligible in the last three months.

82 Mrs O'NEIL to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Has the minister received the report which was commissioned from the Chief Librarian of the Australian National Library about library services in the NT? Will that report be made available to the Assembly? If not, can he tell us what were the recommendations of that report and whether the Northern Territory government will be accepting those recommendations?

ANSWER

The report commissioned by the Northern Territory government from Dr Chandler was on the basis of a confidential document between that gentleman and myself, as minister. The reason for doing that was so that he would not feel any obligations whatsoever to be at all protective in his comments of the minister who commissioned him. In the interview in my office, I made it quite clear that he was to investigate and be as critical as he liked, on the understanding that the information would be made available to me on a confidential basis. I must say I was somewhat surprised to learn that the director of the Northern Territory library services has, in fact, been provided with a copy of it. I trust that person will respect the confidentiality. No, I would not intend tabling it in this Assembly. As for the policy decisions to come out of it, that is a matter for cabinet. My department and myself are considering in detail those recommendations. I will have a cabinet submission prepared for my cabinet colleagues to consider and out of that will come government policy.

83 Mr HARRIS to MINISTER for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In view of the withholding of assent by the Governor-General to the Prices Regulation Ordinance 1975, what action will the government take to remedy the problems caused by the lack of satisfactory appeal provisions in the Prices Regulation Ordinance 1949?

ANSWER

It would take a while to answer that one. Honourable members who were in this Chamber at the time would recall the reasons for that piece of legislation. It was drafted during the time of the federal Labor government which had the philosophy of bludgeoning business into submission at every chance it had. It was a mechanism which the Majority Party of that time saw as overcoming the heavy-handed bureaucracy in business control. After 1975, with the advent of the Liberal government, we decided that that type of price control was not necessarily the best type of price control to suit the Territory context. My department is examining in detail what is necessary in terms of consumer protection rather than governmental business management in the area of price control. I personally believe that luxury items should not necessarily be subjected to that type of control. I do, however, accept that the public are entitled to protection in essential consumer items such as bread and milk where a large degree of monopoly may occur within a community. The department is making recommendations to me at this moment and that will be the subject of a cabinet submission. Subsequent to that cabinet submission, appropriate legislation for the circumstances will be introduced.

84 Mr ISAACS to MINISTER for TRANSPORT and WORKS

What action has he taken to talk to the insurance company responsible for the dispute on the wharf between the Waterside Workers Federation and the Western Australian State Ships concerning the cessation of weekly payments to waterside workers?

ANSWER

The matter was drawn to my attention some days ago. I have had a telephone conversation with the Leader of the Opposition on this matter. A meeting was being held this morning at 8.30 in an attempt to try to resolve the problem so that the parties could be sufficiently satisfied for the waterside workers to go back to work but I am unaware of what happened at that meeting.

INDEX TO QUESTIONS

8 September - 20 September 1978

- Aboriginal Legal Aid, means test (Oliver) 758
 Aboriginal, local councils (Perkins) 10, 27
 Air fares, medical patients referred interstate (Oliver) 74
 Alice Springs - bus service (Oliver) 47
 - hospital psychiatrist (Oliver) 36
 - land auctions (Oliver) 29
 Arafura Hostel (O'Neil) 40
 Asian Development Bank (Dondas) 56
 Auditor-General report (Isaacs) 38
 Benn, Mr Billy (Perkins) 55
 Bookmakers, government policy (Vale) 35
 Casuarina Hospital (Dondas) 26
 Community health centres, charges (O'Neil) 73
 Community organisations, funding (O'Neil) 13
 Construction Safety Ordinance (Vale) 20
 Councils and Associations Act, NT implementation (Doolan) 50
 Crab fishing (Lawrie) 23
 Crocodiles, sightings (Padgham-Purich) 69
 Daly River levy banks (Doolan) 78
 Darwin bus re-routing (D'Rozario) 48
 Darwin Community College, new land lease (Dondas) 60
 ELCOM, workers' compensation insurance (Isaacs) 874
 Electricity charges (Isaacs) 67
 Electricity underground reticulation (D'Rozario) 53
 Fannie Bay, arterial road (O'Neil) 21, 25, 34
 Fannie Bay gaol (O'Neil) 30
 Forestry report (Harris) 14; (Collins) 827
 Gove - alumina plant (Ballantyne) 81
 - dental clinic (Ballantyne) 43
 - nurses aide course (Ballantyne) 49
 - welfare officer (Ballantyne) 9
 Government, land clearing (Harris) 24
 Government, misuse of equipment (Padgham-Purich) 61
 Historic buildings report (Harris) 58
 Hospital outpatients' services, charges (O'Neil) 73
 Housing Commission tenants, private home ownership (Dondas) 52
 Housing, married women (D'Rozario) 80
 Howard Springs dump (Doolan) 19
 Katherine dental clinic (O'Neil) 837
 Katherine hospital ward (Padgham-Purich) 18
 Kookaburra aircraft (Ballantyne) 22
 Land auctions (D'Rozario) 71
 Land use, lot 620 Darwin (D'Rozario) 826
 Library services, Chandler report (O'Neil) 82
 Liquor bill (Harris) 68
 Marrara sports complex (Dondas) 12
 Mining legislation (Padgham-Purich) 31
 Ministerial staffing (Isaacs) 742
 Misleading information (Isaacs) 8, 11
 Mortgage discharge, government homes (Oliver) 16
 Nakara, curriculum and media centres (Dondas) 79
 Oil exploration, off-shore (Harris) 45
 Ombudsman, transfer of investigations from Commonwealth (D'Rozario) 62
 Ord River, Snowy Mountains Authority report (Isaacs) 42, 57
 Parap fire station (O'Neil) 51
 Performing arts centre (Lawrie) 15
 Pensioners, vehicle charge rebates (Lawrie) 28
 Perkins, V.B. lease (Isaacs) 17
 Police force, manning establishment (Isaacs) 831
 Police numbers in central Australia (Vale) 72

INDEX TO QUESTIONS

8 September - 20 September 1978

Powerhouse, uranium province (Harris) 41
Prices Regulations Ordinance 1975, non-assent (Harris) 83
Producers Co-op, \$66,000 advance (Isaacs) 596
Public utility systems, upgrading (Harris) 830
Railway rolling stock, Salonika (Harris) 77
Rural Adjustment Scheme, loans to cattlemen (Isaacs) 840
School dental clinics (Vale) 7
School library cuts (Dondas) 33
Single officer housing (Lawrie) 32
Stuart Highway, line markings (Padgham-Purich) 54
Teacher training courses, payments to lecturers (Isaacs) 76
Vesteys Beach - boat ramp (O'Neil) 2
 - sewerage excavations (O'Neil) 59
VFL finals, telecast (Doolan) 70
Waterside Workers Federation dispute (Isaacs) 84
Willeroo, employees holiday pay (Doolan) 44
Willeroo project (Isaacs) 37, 212, 550, 551, 552, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 584;
 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 710, 711, 712; (Perkins) 545, 583, 587,
 610, 611, 612; (D'Rozario) 549, 585, 586; (Doolan) 553, 572, 580, 597, 598,
 599; (O'Neil) 582
Yirrkala school (Ballantyne) 75
Yulara village (Perkins) 46