

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Second Assembly

Parliamentary Record

Wednesday 7 June 1978

Thursday 8 June 1978

Friday 9 June 1978

Tuesday 13 June 1978

Wednesday 14 June 1978

Thursday 15 June 1978

Friday 16 June 1978

Part II—Questions

Part III—Minutes

Part IV—Bills Introduced

PART II

THE QUESTION PAPER

Questions are printed in numerical order

An index to questions appears at the end of Part II

FROM 28 FEBRUARY 1978

191 Mr PERKINS to Mr ROBERTSON

Will he advise when and where the Community Access Centre for Alice Springs will be provided?

Will the facilities and resources of the proposed Community Access Centre be made freely available to other local community organisations, including Aboriginal organisations?

What is the total staff establishment and salary levels proposed for the Community Access Centre?

Will this centre replace the functions of the Alice Springs Regional Council for Social Development?

212 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

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 on 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?

223 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr PERRON

In respect of the new Darwin Town Planning Scheme that is on public exhibition until 30 March 1978 -

(a) how many objections have so far been lodged; and

(b) how many permits to build have been issued since 1 January 1978 in respect of parcels of land that have been the subject of public objection?

FROM 7 MARCH 1978

253 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

Has the Northern Territory Port Authority signed a lease agreement with V.B. Perkins and Co? If so, when? If not, why not?

303 Mr ISAACS to Mr ROBERTSON

In the 1976-77 financial year, what was the amount of financial assistance provided by the Majority Party government to each Northern Territory amateur sporting body?

FROM 2 MAY 1978

335 Mr PERKINS to Mr PERRON

Has the Northern Territory executive determined exactly what functions will be transferred from the Department of Construction to the Northern Territory Public Service on 1 July 1978?

If so, what are these functions?

365 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

- (a) Has the NT executive received a warrant authority for the funding of the functions transferred on 1 January 1978?
- (b) If so, on what date?
- (c) On what date did the NT executive receive an undertaking from the Australian government to provide the additional \$1,396,535 to provide for funds for the functions transferred on 1 January 1978?
- (d) Will the Majority Leader supply me with a copy of the correspondence giving the undertaking?

FROM 9 MAY 1978

384 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr EVERINGHAM

How many persons have claimed exemption from jury service under section 11A of the Juries Ordinance?

386 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

1. What are the precise clinical features in those Northern Territory cattle and sheep, goats and buffaloes suffering from the strain of blue tongue virus now being recorded in the Top End?
2. How many animals have been found to be clinically sick?
3. How many have died?
4. How can the disease be eradicated?
5. What financial burden and what responsibilities will this place on the government of the Northern Territory and the individual farmer?

387 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

1. Following on from the reply to my question on notice regarding the future plans of Agriculture and Animal Industry Branch to actively encourage agricultural development in the Northern Territory, what stage have the negotiations reached between the Northern Territory executive and the Commonwealth to have the Northern Territory Agriculture and Animal Industry Branch included in the Commonwealth Extension Services Grants Scheme?
2. What other sources of finance are available to the branch for investigation and development of projects to help small landholders?

484 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

I refer to the Aboriginal Development Foundation and ask -

- (a) how many members does it have, and who are the current office bearers and what are their positions;
- (b) are elections for this organisation held and, if so, when;
- (c) do members of the foundation meet and, if so, how often, and are their meetings advertised in the Aboriginal community generally;
- (d) what audit checks are carried out on the foundation's financial

statement;

- (e) are financial statements available and, if so, to whom; and
- (f) is the foundation currently operating under the constitution lodged with and accepted by the Registrar of Companies and, if so, what is the date of incorporation?

FROM 7 JUNE 1978

548 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

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

549 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr STEELE

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

550 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

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?

551 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

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?

552 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

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?

553 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

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?

571 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

1. Is the Douglas-Daly experimental station still on a sub-lease from Douglas Station, owned by Sir William Gunn and now in liquidation and, if not, what is the present tenure situation?
2. What amount of money has been spent on the Douglas-Daly station and how can this expenditure be justified in view of the weak tenure position?

3. When was this station established; was a formal agreement with Sir William Gunn for the use of the land in existence at the time or did operations commence on a mutual cooperation basis involving the use of a Tipperary bulldozer?
4. What has prevented the re-negotiation of a reasonable lease tenure during the last couple of years to allow reasonable security of both experimentation and assets?

572 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

1. What is the estimated value of the Willeroo-Scott Creek 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?

573 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

1. Will he obtain from the Australian Broadcasting Commission answers to the following questions with a view to ensuring the upgrading of radio and television programs to a state-like standard of quality and variety -
 - (a) Does the ABC appreciate that in a few weeks the Territory will be a state in everything but name?
 - (b) In view of this, what local state-type output in such things as news, current affairs, sporting, education and rural affairs can the Territory expect?
 - (c) Will the so-called regional news be extended to a full length state-national bulletin and a regional television news service provided for Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Katherine?
 - (d) Will a daily TDT-style current affairs program be re-introduced?
 - (e) Will rural television programs applicable to the Territory be re-introduced?
 - (f) Will education programs suitable to NT school curriculum be produced and transmitted in the Territory?
 - (g) What is the timetable for converting the ABC television studios in Darwin to colour?
 - (h) Will colour television equipment installed in Darwin allow material to be fed into the national network?
 - (i) Can we expect such national programs as Divine Service to be produced in the Territory from time to time?
 - (j) Will television sporting programs be upgraded to the equivalent of those in the states and can we expect to see videotaped replays of major sporting events as a regular feature?
 - (k) What improvements are to be made to the limited radio service?
 - (l) When will a second radio network be introduced to provide an alternative to the rural orientated third network?

- (m) Will there be more local involvement in radio programs?
- (n) What has happened to the pre-cyclone proposals for a shortwave radio service in the Territory?
- (o) Will the ABC hierarchy continue to look at Darwin as a regional outpost rather than elevating it to, for example, the same status as ABC Canberra?

575 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

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?

576 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

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

577 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

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

578 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

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?

579 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

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?

580 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

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

582 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr STEELE

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?

583 Mr PERKINS to Mr STEELE

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?

584 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

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?

585 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr STEELE

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

586 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr STEELE

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

587 Mr PERKINS to Mr STEELE

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

588 Mr PERKINS to Mr STEELE

Will he advise whether or not the sealing of an all-weather road between the Stuart Highway and Uluru National Park has been considered by his department and, if so, whether or not such a project will be included in the NT executive's proposed major rural roads development program?

589 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

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?

590 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

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?

591 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

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

592 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

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

593 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

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

594 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

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

595 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

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?

596 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

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?

597 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

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

598 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

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

599 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

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?

600 Mr PERKINS to Mr STEELE

Will he advise whether or not the sealing of an all-weather road between the Stuart Highway and Papunya, and the Stuart Highway and Yuendumu has been considered by his department and, if so, whether such a project will be included in the NT executive's proposed major rural road development program?

601 Mr PERKINS to Mr STEELE

Will he advise whether or not the sealing of an all-weather road between Alice Springs airport and Santa Teresa Aboriginal community has been considered by his department and, if so, whether such a project will be included in the NT executive's proposed major rural roads development program?

602 Mr PERKINS to Mr STEELE

Will he advise whether or not the sealing of an all-weather road between Jay Creek and Hermannsburg and Areyonga has been considered by his department and, if so, whether such a project will be included in the NT executive's proposed major rural roads development program?

603 Mr PERKINS to Mr STEELE

Will he advise whether or not his department has considered the sealing of an all-weather road between the Jay Creek area and Glen Helen Gorge and Haast Bluff Aboriginal community and, if so, whether such a project

will be included in the NT executive's proposed major rural roads development program?

604 Mr PERKINS to Mr ROBERTSON

1. Is the proposal by the Department of Education for the development of Alice Springs Community College as a college of technical and further education in accord with the views of the NT executive and of the Legislative Assembly as to the inevitable structure for education as a whole in the NT?
2. Was he consulted initially by the Education Department about such a proposal?
3. Is he aware of the details of this proposal?
4. Will he assure the Assembly that the views of the Alice Springs Community College Council will be sought directly in relation to this proposal?

605 Mr PERKINS to Mr ROBERTSON

1. Has the Department of Education proposed that the Alice Springs Community College be developed into a Central Australian college of technical and further education?
2. Why were the views of the Alice Springs Community College in relation to this proposal not sought officially by the Minister for Education or his department?
3. Is he aware that the NT Further Education Council has recommended that Alice Springs Community College should be a community college of Central Australia and, if so, what action will he take to ensure that this recommendation is carried out?

606 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Will he give an undertaking that measures, similar to those adopted by the Australian Public Service, to give more Aborigines job will be introduced by the Northern Territory Public Service?

607 Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Is it a fact that children who are the product of Aboriginal marriages by Aboriginal law are regarded in the Northern Territory as illegitimate for the purposes of the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages Ordinance and, if so, why?

609 Mr PERKINS to Mr STEELE

1. What action was taken by the CLP executive, on behalf of the Alice Springs Abattoir, to secure part of the recent 10,000 tonne increase in Australia's quota for the Japanese beef market?
2. What representation will be made by the CLP executive to the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation concerning the freeze on meat exports recently announced?

610 Mr PERKINS to Mr STEELE

Will he confirm that a number of Aborigines who worked at the Willeroo

project between December and March were not actually paid by the Primary Producers Board?

611 Mr PERKINS to Mr STEELE

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

612 Mr PERKINS to Mr STEELE

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?

613 Mr COLLINS to Mr TUXWORTH

1. Is it true that the honourable member has had a personal communication from the personal secretary to the honourable Cabinet Member for the Treasury, on the honourable member's headed paper, for assistance in obtaining a licence to keep in his personal possession the Northern Rosella and Honeyeater?
2. Is it true that this person had previously been refused a licence by the department?
3. Does the honourable member intend to accede to his request?

614 Mr COLLINS to Mr TUXWORTH

1. What are the names of the non-Aboriginal members of the Prime Minister's fishing party that recently fished Dreaming Waters?
2. Is it intended to prosecute these persons under section 25F of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Ordinance?

617 Mr VALE to Mr STEELE

1. What is the current dingo eradication program in pastoral areas?
2. What particular areas are currently involved?
3. How much money is budgeted for the coming financial year, and how much was budgeted in the current year for the eradication program?
4. What means are used to kill the dingoes in the eradication program?
5. What poison is used in the eradication program?
6. How does the use of this poison measure up to WHO standards?
7. In view of the overstocking on many properties, the market expectations of our cattle industry, the favourable findings of CSIRO about six years ago regarding the dingoes actual depredations on cattle, are these eradication programs really necessary at this time and, if so, why?

618 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr EVERINGHAM

Has the Majority Party executive considered the establishment of a central

QUESTIONS NOT ANSWERED BY 13 JUNE 1978

purchasing authority to coordinate the purchase of goods and stores for the Northern Territory Public Service?

620 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

What was the total amount of premium income received by Northern Territory workmen's compensation insurers in the years 1974-75, 1975-76 and 1976-77?

622 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

1. When will the Housing Commission take over departmental housing?
2. If an employee of the Northern Territory Public Service is superannuated out of the service, under what conditions will he retain a departmental house?
3. If the employee is required to pay an economic rent, will he be given the choice of moving to another house at a lower rental than the economic rent of the former departmental house?

623 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

1. Is it a fact that a fire station will be built at Berrimah?
2. Is it a fact that the Winnellie Fire Station is to be closed down and used as a mechanical workshop for the Fire Brigade?
3. What is the position of the proposed depot or station for the Fire Brigade proposed for the 14 mile?
4. What is the position of the proposed depot or station for the Fire Brigade proposed for the 19 mile?
5. Who has charge of fire prevention now in the rural area outside Darwin, the Fire Brigade or the Bush Fire Council, and how far down the track does this area of control extend?
6. In the new Northern Territory Fire Brigade how many personnel will there be per head of population and what is the present ratio?

625 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr ROBERTSON

After 1 July 1978 on what basis will miscellaneous assistance be granted to persons without dependants?

FROM 13 JUNE 1978

626 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

What was the staff establishment for each department of the Northern Territory Public Service at - (a) 1/1/1977; (b) 1/7/1977; (c) 1/1/1978; and (d) 31/5/1978?

709 Mr DOOLAN to Mr TUXWORTH

1. What was the purchase price of the 436 square kilometres acquired from Auvergne Station for use as a national park?
2. Who was responsible for this purchase?
3. Who owns Auvergne Station?

710 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

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?

711 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

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?

712 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

In relation to the \$150,000 advance made to the receiver of the Willeroo-Scott Creek properties, can the cabinet member 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?

306 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

What is the policy of the Majority Party on the ratio of taxi plates per head of population?

ANSWER

Public hire car (or taxi) licences have in the past been generally issued on the basis of one licence to every 750 persons in the population of any given centre.

Other factors taken into account have included the demand from tourists, local economic factors, existence of public transport and complaints from public about lack of service. New licences have not been issued except where there has been a significant level of complaint on lack of service.

It is the intention of the Northern Territory government to review the numbers of licences on issue annually. The industry will be given the opportunity to comment on its ability to accommodate the new licences proposed as well as the public to comment on its perceived need.

339 Mr PERKINS to Mr ROBERTSON

Will he advise what amounts of funds will be made available by the Northern Territory executive and when such funds will be available to complete the Commonwealth government's undertaking to the Alice Springs Municipal Council in relation to the construction of a new civic centre?

ANSWER

Funding for the civic centre is the subject of forward estimates for 1978-1979. As such the information is not available until after the Budget is announced.

369 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr STEELE

How many qualified tradesmen are employed as tradesmen in the Northern Territory by:

- (a) Commonwealth government departments and authorities, and in what trades?
- (b) Departments responsible to the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly, and in what trades?
- (c) Local government authorities and in what trades?

ANSWER

The answer to this question is taking some time due to the fact that no central liaison point exists to contain the required statistics. Questionnaires have been forwarded to the relevant Commonwealth and local government authorities. Once these have all been returned and studied, a reply to the question will be supplied.

372 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

1. How many adults live on each of the Aboriginal settlements and missions in the Northern Territory?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

2. How many adults are employed on each of the Aboriginal settlements and missions in the Northern Territory?
3. How many adults are in receipt of unemployment benefits on each of the Aboriginal settlements and missions in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

1. and 2. Please note that part 1 embraces the total population at each Aboriginal community and mission, since figures solely for adults are not readily available. In both instances, approximate figures only are supplied.

<u>Aboriginal community or mission</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Employed</u>
Amoonguna	152	36
Angurugu	680	81
Areyonga	363	64
Bagot	405	52
Bathurst Island (Nguui)	895	213
Bamyili	737	156
Beswick	228	50
Borroloola	380	42
Bulman	112	1
Croker Island (Minjilang)	283	49
Daly River (Naiyu Ukuma)	193	43
Delissaville (Belyuen)	241	33
Docker River	239	42
Elcho Island (Galiwinku)	605	204
Lake Evella (Gapuwiyak)	237	50
Garden Point	235	55
Goulburn Island (Waruwi)	205	73
Haasts Bluff	146	22
Hermannsburg	700	77
Jay Creek (Iwuputaka)	131	26
Lajamanu (Hooker Creek)	820	106
Maningrida	800	173
Milingimbi	725	103
Ngukurr (Roper River)	514	66
Numbulwar (Rose River)	400	79
Oenpelli (Gunbalanya)	660	93
Papunya	500	153
Peppimenarti	153	19
Port Keats	978	186
Ramangining/Nangalala	314	50
Santa Teresa	637	138
Snake Bay (Milikapiti)	280	54
Umbakumba	430	59
Warrabri	642	103
Wave Hill/Wattie Creek (Libanangu/Dagaragu)	600	83
Yirrkala	960	95
Yuendumu	1176	170

3. Persons on Aboriginal settlements and missions who were receiving unemployment benefit as at 5 April 1978:

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

<u>Settlement</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Mission</u>	<u>No.</u>
Delissaville	10	Bathurst Island	7
Docker River	37	Daly River	10
Elcho Island	5	Goulburn Island	1
Maningrida	2	Garden Point	4
Numbulwar	1	Hermannsburg	87
Nurkurr	29	Santa Teresa	12
Oenpelli	4		121
Papunya	77		
Wave Hill	1		
Yuendumu	35		
	201		

374 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr TUXWORTH

During 1977 -

- (a) how many persons were apprehended in accordance with sections 6(1), 6(2), 9 and 11 of the Mental Defectives Ordinance;
- (b) in each of these categories, how many were remanded, and detained -
 - (i) where; and
 - (ii) for how long;
- (c) how many in each category were subsequently found to be mentally defective;
- (d) how many have been transferred to state institutions; and
- (e) how many have been transferred to state institutions under section 17 of the Mental Defectives Ordinance?

ANSWER

- (a) The total number of persons apprehended pursuant to the Mental Defectives Ordinance during 1977 was 45.
 Under section 6(1) 2 persons
 Under section 6(2) 43 persons
 Under section 9 nil
 Under section 11 nil
- (b) At their first appearance before the court the following occurred:
 Re those apprehended under section 6(1): 2 persons remanded to Darwin Hospital for 14 days;
 Re those apprehended under section 6(2): 6 matters were dismissed; 12 remanded to Darwin Hospital for 14 days; 1 remanded to Darwin Hospital for 10 days and then transferred to the gaol for 4 more days; 2 remanded to gaol for 1-2 days; 1 remanded to gaol for 4 days; 2 remanded to gaol for 8 days; 1 remanded to gaol for 11 days; 1 remanded to gaol for 13 days; and 17 remanded to gaol for 14 days.
- (c) At their second appearance before the court the following occurred:
 Re those apprehended under section 6(1): 1 dismissed; 1 found to be mentally defective.
 Re those apprehended under section 6(2): 30 dismissed; 7 found to be mentally defective.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

A total of 8 persons were found to be mentally defective within the terms of the Mental Defectives Ordinance during 1977.

- (d) Information provided by the Director of Correctional Services indicates that these 8 persons were transferred to state institutions. The 8 persons involved comprised 4 from Darwin and 4 from Alice Springs.

(e) Nil.

375 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr ROBERTSON

1. In what categories and in what amounts is welfare assistance being paid by the Department of the Northern Territory to residents of Aboriginal settlements?
2. After 1 July 1978 -
 - (a) will miscellaneous assistance continue to be provided on the same scale as at present;
 - (b) under what circumstances will persons without dependants receive miscellaneous assistance; and
 - (c) is it intended that a category known as "emergency assistance" be provided, as in Victoria?

ANSWER

1. Residents of Aboriginal settlements are paid fostering allowances, supporting mothers benefits and are provided with financial assistance of a discretionary nature where Department of Social Security benefits are not available.
2. (a) Yes.
 - (b) On the same basis as non-Aboriginals.
 - (c) "Emergency assistance" has always been available either by application to officers of the Social Development Branch or to officers visiting on field trips.

379 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr ROBERTSON

How much money was allocated, and how much has been expended, by the Social Development Branch of the Department of the Northern Territory, for miscellaneous general relief in the 1977-78 financial year?

ANSWER

The following information has been provided in answer:

A total amount of \$372,000 has been allocated for miscellaneous relief in 1977-78.

At 5 May 1978, the total expenditure in this area has been \$356,916.47, including continuing cheque payments to be made until 30 June 1978.

380 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

1. When was treasury approval sought by the Northern Territory executive to seek loan money for the Willeroo-Scott Creek venture?

2. When was the approval given?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory executive has neither sought nor been granted treasury approval for loan funds for the Willeroo-Scott Creek proposal.

381 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

What was the recommendation of the Department of the Northern Territory concerning new electricity charges? Specifically, what increase did it recommend for each of the domestic tariff and the commercial tariff?

Who made the decision to relate Northern Territory electricity charges to "similar tariffs" applicable in Townsville? On what basis was this decision made?

What percentage of total electricity consumption is consumed by:

(a) domestic users; and

(b) commercial users?

As a result of the increased charges, how much extra revenue will be raised from:

(a) domestic users; and

(b) commercial users?

ANSWER

The following information has been provided in answer:

The Administrator in Council determined the new electricity charges on 31 March 1978. All departmental papers required by the council are submitted on a confidential basis.

Basing NT tariffs on charges similar to those in North Queensland was by agreement between the Commonwealth and the NT executive. The arrangement is considered reasonable having regard to the geographical and population similarities between the two areas.

Consumption is as follows:

(a) domestic users 40.4%

(b) commercial users 59.6%

It is estimated that extra revenue for a full financial year will be:

(a) domestic users \$ 100,000

(b) commercial users \$1,350,000
 \$1,450,000

382 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr STEELE

1. What is the composition of the Darwin Traffic Committee?

2. What are the functions of the Darwin Traffic Committee?

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

3. Are meetings of the Darwin Traffic Committee open to the public?

ANSWER

The Darwin Traffic Committee was disbanded in March this year.

With the continuing transfer of powers to the Legislative Assembly, it was considered that activities previously handled by the committee could best be handled by the Corporation of the City of Darwin and the Department of Transport and Industry (Transport and Works in future), who both have direct access to the elected representatives of the people.

Constant consultation between these two bodies should result in a more direct approach to the solution of Darwin's traffic problems.

383 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

What is the cost to install the electricity supply at Larrimah?

ANSWER

The following costs are involved with the provision of electricity supply to Larrimah:

(a) Supply of two No. 54 kw diesel alternators (completed February 1978)	\$20,448
(b) Installation of fuel tanks, pipes, etc. (anticipated completion December 1978)	\$15,000 (estimated)
(c) Distribution and instrumentation (anticipated completion February 1979)	\$ 7,000 (estimated)
(d) Purchase of powerhouse building from Commonwealth Railway (funds being negotiated with Department of Finance)	\$12,500
Total estimated cost	<u>\$54,948</u>

385 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr TUXWORTH

In the last financial year for which full records are available -

1. How many metres of non-core drilling did the drilling section of the Mines Branch achieve?
2. What was the total expenditure by the Mines Branch on drilling during the year?
3. What was the cost per metre of core and non-core drilling during that period?

ANSWER

The following information has been provided in answer:

1. Drilling completed July 1976-June 1977

Diamond drilling	3,125m
Auger drilling	961m

2. Drilling costs 1976-77

	<u>Core drilling</u>	<u>Non-core drilling</u>
Direct costs:		
Staff	\$ 60,200	\$ -
Wages	107,479	24,565
Travel and camping allowance	17,092	1,899
Operational	<u>68,422</u>	<u>2,327</u>
	253,193	28,791
Indirect costs:		
Supervision	12,420	6,430
Vehicles	<u>43,460</u>	<u>7,540</u>
	55,880	13,970

3. Cost per metre

Direct cost	\$81	\$30
Indirect cost	<u>\$18</u>	<u>\$15</u>
	\$99	\$45

421 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

How many commercial users of electricity in the Northern Territory are there for each of the following consumed electricity units for the last quarterly period of billing:

- (a) Up to 3,000
- (b) 3,001 - 10,000
- (c) 10,001 - 20,000
- (d) 20,001 - 30,000
- (e) 30,001 - 50,000
- (f) 50,001 - 85,000
- (g) 85,001 - 100,000
- (h) 100,001 - 200,000
- (i) 200,001 - 400,000
- (j) 400,001 - 500,000
- (k) 500,001 - 750,000
- (l) 750,001 - 1,000,000
- (m) Over 1,000,000?

ANSWER

The following information has been provided in answer:

The department does not have statistics for commercial users of electricity in the consumption ranges requested. The only statistics available are in the ranges which follow and are tabulated for the quarterly period January to March:

<u>Range</u>	<u>No. of consumers</u>
Up to - 5,000	1009
5,001 - 10,000	298
10,001 - 15,000	128
15,001 - 20,000	84
20,001 - 25,000	53
25,001 - 30,000	29

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

30,001 - 40,000	51
40,001 - 50,000	42
50,001 - 60,000	22
60,001 - 80,000	33
80,001 - 100,000	18
100,001 - 150,000	29
150,001 - 200,000	14
200,001 - 250,000	9
250,001 +	39

422 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

How many domestic users of electricity in the Northern Territory are there for each of the following units of consumed electricity for the last quarterly period of billing:

- (a) Up to 500
- (b) 501 - 750
- (c) 751 - 1,000
- (d) 1,001 - 1,250
- (e) 1,251 - 1,500
- (f) 1,501 - 1,750
- (g) 1,751 - 2,000
- (h) 2,001 - 2,250
- (i) 2,251 - 2,500
- (j) 2,501 - 2,750
- (k) 2,751 - 3,000
- (l) 3,001 - 3,250
- (m) 3,251 - 3,500
- (n) Over 3,500?

ANSWER

The following information has been provided in answer:

The department does not have statistics for domestic users of electricity in the ranges requested. The only statistics available are in the ranges which follow and are tabulated for the quarterly period from January to March:

<u>Range</u>	<u>No. of consumers</u>
Up to 200	547
201 - 400	616
401 - 600	885
601 - 800	1034
801 - 1,000	1160
1,001 - 1,200	1114
1,201 - 1,500	1767
1,501 - 2,000	2408
2,001 - 2,500	1416
2,501 - 3,000	877
3,001 - 3,500	539
3,501 - 4,000	346
4,001 - 4,500	222
4,501 - 5,000	156
5,001 +	491

482 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr EVERINGHAM

Is it his intention to establish a Parliamentary Public Works Committee of this Assembly to examine and report on NT civil works when this area

of responsibility is transferred to his executive control?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory executive is considering the matter.

483 Mr PERKINS to Mr TUXWORTH

1. Is it a fact that a Mrs Stevens of Adelaide held the original mining exploration licence for the Nabarlek uranium deposits?
2. Is it a fact that Queensland Mines Ltd acquired from her the exploration licence for a sum in the order of \$1,025,000, plus a 1% interest in the value of all future uranium mined?
3. Will he advise what is the current value of the 1% interest on the value of the uranium mined at current market value?
4. Will he advise why the NT Mines Branch granted an exploration licence to Mrs Stevens who would appear to have no sufficient financial resources or mining expertise at the time?
5. Will he advise further why the Mines Branch thought fit to accommodate Mrs Stevens by granting her a mining lease in 1971 solely for the purpose of effecting settlement of the agreement entered into between Mrs Stevens and Queensland Mines Ltd pending issue of a special mining lease over Nabarlek?
6. Is it correct that the 1% interest involved is worth some \$700,000 per year and that it will operate for eight years?
7. Does he know of any undertaking by Mrs Stevens that she will invest any of her money in the NT?

ANSWER

1. Yes.
2. No. The exploration licence was transferred for a consideration of one dollar. The mineral lease was transferred for a consideration of \$600,000 plus 1% of the gross value.
3. Using a price of \$40 per lb uranium oxide, the 1% interest would be expected to yield approximately \$8 million.
4. The financial resources and technical expertise available to the exploration licence applicants by virtue of an agreement with Queensland Mines were considered adequate to undertake the proposed program. At the time of the grant of the original prospecting authority (form of exploration tenure before introduction of exploration licences), some doubts were entertained by the Mines Branch on the applicant's ability to undertake an effective exploration program. However, in the absence of any objections and in line with legal opinion that the Administrator did not have discretion to refuse a valid application when no objection had been submitted, the authority was granted.
5. In 1971 the government approved Mrs Stevens and her daughters being issued with one lease immediately after they had executed a settlement agreement with Queensland Mines Ltd and upon the following assurances being received from the respective parties:
 - (a) an undertaking by Mrs Stevens and her daughters that the lease,

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

after grant, would immediately be transferred to the company;

- (b) an undertaking by Queensland Mines Limited that no mining would be done on the lease and it would be surrendered prior to the grant of a special mineral lease pursuant to the development agreement.

6. Refer (3) above. Treatment of the Nabarlek ore is currently proposed to be carried out over eight to ten years.

7. No.

574 Mr ISAACS to Mr PERRON

1. Has a funding commitment been sought from the federal government for the purchase of the Willeroo-Scott Creek properties?
2. If such a funding commitment has been promised, then what is the amount involved and the conditions attached to it?

ANSWER

1. No.
2. Not applicable.

581 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

What is the current bank overdraft rate for borrowings up to \$100,000 and for borrowings over \$100,000?

ANSWER

As at 29 May 1978 the maximum interest chargeable by trading banks on overdrafts drawn under limits of less than \$100,000 is 10.5% per annum. By voluntary agreement of the trading banks in February 1978, interest on overdrafts in respect of housing is 0.5% below usual rates.

Interest on larger overdrafts is a matter for negotiation between banks and their customers.

608 Mr HARRIS to Mr STEELE

How are Darwin taxi fares determined?

ANSWER

Calculations for the determination of rates chargeable by taxi operators are based on assessments using a combination of two different methods:

1. the assessed costs of running the hire car; and
2. the return that ought to follow compared with the average adult male wage.

The data included in the cost analysis comprises:

- (a) fuel costs based on distance travelled annually, consumption rate and cost per gallon;
- (b) oil and grease services;

- (c) maintenance and mechanical repairs;
- (d) tyres and tubes;
- (e) registration and insurance;
- (f) panel repairs;
- (g) radio subscriptions;
- (h) vehicle depreciation;
- (i) depreciation of ancillary equipment such as taxi meter, lights, fire extinguisher and company emblems;
- (j) equipment installation costs;
- (k) meter repairs;
- (l) a loading for sick and holiday pay in which is allowed accepted award standards for leave at adult male wage rates;
- (m) miscellaneous expenses such as washing and polishing, etc;
- (n) administration costs including bookkeeping, accounting and banking costs.

The costs for all the above, totalled, give the annual vehicle running costs and when divided by the annual distance travelled gives the cost per kilometre. The charge rate is therefore a balance between paid and non-paid kilometres.

Similarly calculations are made based on the return from a 40-hour working week which is necessary to afford the operator a wage based on the current average adult male wage. These calculations are again reduced to a cost per kilometre and when combined with the former give the total cost which should be chargeable as per the meter.

Fee reviews have been conducted in the past, following representations from the industry. The industry provides the basic information as to running costs and their assertions are closely checked.

In 1975 all operators in the Territory were invited to provide these details on a voluntary individual basis. This was done in an attempt to get more accurate information on which to base fee calculations. A single response, from Nhulunbuy, was forthcoming.

No recent representations have been made.

615 Mr PERKINS to Mr TUXWORTH

1. Will he advise the full set of criteria adopted by the NT Mines Branch in their consideration of the granting of mining exploration licences?
2. What criteria or factors are taken into account by the NT Administrator when he considers the actual granting of mining exploration licences?

ANSWER

The following information has been provided in answer:

1. The Mines Branch in reporting to the Administrator on applications for exploration licences takes into account:
 - (a) compliance with the ordinance;
 - (b) any objections against the grant of a licence;
 - (c) the technical competence and financial ability of the applicant;
 - (d) past Northern Territory exploration history of the applicant (compliance with conditions, carrying out of exploration programs, reporting, etc);
 - (e) the suitability of the proposed work program (in relation to the geology of the area, previous work done, etc);
 - (f) program's environmental effect;
 - (g) any other pending or existing requirements for the land (eg national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, etc);
 - (h) priority of application; and
 - (i) special conditions which may be called for.
2. In accordance with the provisions of section 38H of the Mining Ordinance, the Administrator in determining the grant of an exploration licence is required to take into account:
 - (a) any objections that have been lodged against the grant of a licence;
 - (b) priority of application;
 - (c) whether it is desirable that a licence should be granted in respect of the land applied for;
 - (d) whether the effect of granting the licence would mean that a person could acquire a greater interest in prospecting the mineral wealth of the Northern Territory than in his opinion is desirable;
 - (e) the applicant's proposals for work and expenditure and the extent and purposes for which the applicant will explore the land;
 - (f) the applicant's ability to carry out his proposals for work and expenditure;
 - (g) in respect of Aboriginal reserves, the interests, well-being and employment of Aboriginals; and
 - (h) such other matters as he considers should be taken into account.

616 Mr PERKINS to Mr TUXWORTH

1. What are the full details of the intentions of the NT Parks and Wildlife Service in relation to the management and other aspects of the Uluru National Park and Kakadu National Park?

2. Are these intentions in accord with NT executive concerning the management and control of Uluru National Park and Kakadu National Park?

ANSWER

1. (a) Uluru (Ayers Rock-Mt Olga) National Park

In 1973 the Northern Territory Reserves Board prepared a comprehensive plan for the Ayers Rock-Mt Olga National Park. After receiving public comment the plan was revised in 1974. One of the important premises was that all existing buildings within the park be removed and a new village and aerodrome be constructed on selected sites outside the boundaries. Because this involved substantial funding by government, implementation of the proposals was not possible until these funds became available.

In 1975 the federal National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act was passed and an arrangement made between the Ministers for Environment, Housing and Community Development, Northern Territory and the then Majority Leader for the park to be declared under the federal act. Under this arrangement the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service was to prepare a management plan in collaboration with the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission with the commission being responsible for day-to-day management.

The park was declared under the federal act on 24 May 1977. The plan of management has not yet been released by the ANPWS nor has a release date been notified despite requests by the commission and the Cabinet Member for Resources and Health.

In the meantime the commission has continued with day-to-day management and supervision and has arranged urgent interim capital works funded through the ANPWS.

- (b) Kakadu

In 1965 the Northern Territory Reserves Board made a recommendation that a national park be established in the area between the East and South Alligator Rivers. The long history of subsequent events is contained in the booklet "Notes on a proposal for a national park in the Alligator River area of the far north of the Northern Territory" published in 1972. I will provide a copy of the booklet to the member.

In 1972 by proclamation in NT Gazette No. 32 of 9 August 1972 the Alligator Rivers Wildlife Sanctuary was established and management became the responsibility of the wildlife unit of the Department of the Northern Territory. This unit is now part of the staff of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission.

With the passage of the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act a similar arrangement to the Ayers Rock-Mt Olga National Park was made, i.e. the park would be declared under the federal act with day-to-day management by the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission.

As everyone knows the situation has subsequently been complicated by the uranium inquiry and claims made under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act. However, it is understood that once the Aboriginal land claim is granted, an agreement will be signed between the Northern Land Council and the ANPWS for the area to be run as a nation-

al park by the ANPWS. The extent of participation by the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission is not known at this stage.

In the meantime the commission is controlling the area designated as a wildlife sanctuary with management objectives as follows:

- (a) protection of sites of significance to Aborigines including paintings;
- (b) fire control;
- (c) soil conservation;
- (d) control of exotic pests and feral animals;
- (e) control of visitors to prevent litter and vandalism;
- (f) dissemination of information to visitors; and
- (g) training of rangers which includes Aborigines. Two of the traditional owners are at present employed as assistants.

Visitor access is controlled by permits and allowed as follows:

- (i) Kapalga: Entry restricted to CSIRO staff or others nominated by CSIRO for specified purposes.
- (ii) Cannon Hill: Access beyond Obiri Rock restricted to people engaged in bona fide studies, such as scientists, photographers, writers, etc.
- (iii) Mt Brockman: Access permitted to Radon Creek during daylight hours.
- (iv) Woolwonga: Access restricted, except for approved scientific study. Access to fishermen around the Nourlangie Camp area permitted.
- (v) Lightning Dreaming: Access restricted except for approved scientific study.
- (vi) Nourlangie Rock: Day visitation allowed, provided road conditions are deemed satisfactory. It may be necessary to prevent use by heavy vehicles such as buses because of erosion problems. No overnight camping in the vicinity of Nourlangie Rock or Little Nourlangie Rock. Camping allowed at Muirella Park. Better protection of rock painting from buffaloes highly desirable, as the existing fence is inadequate.
- (vii) Deaf Adder: No access beyond Camp 3 except in special cases at the discretion of the Director, Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission.
- (viii) Jim Jim Falls-Twin Falls: Access by permit only, and restricted to five vehicles at Jim Jim and two at Twin Falls at any one time, unless new camping areas can be set aside at the two locations. If so, then it may be possible to increase the quotas.
- (ix) Graveside Gorge: Access by permit only. Because of adequate space for camping it would well serve as an eventual 'over-

flow' area for Jim Jim Falls. However, at present there are policing difficulties because of road distance from existing ranger stations and, consequently excessive use is discouraged at present.

The practice of stopping access to the above places during the wet season will be continued, the opening and closing dates to be at the discretion of the park manager at Nourlangie Camp.

2. The NT executive believes that total control and management of both national parks should remain with the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission. In the meantime it fully supports the actions taken by the commission.

619 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr TUXWORTH

1. What amount of money did the Betting Control Board originally propose to allocate to the Pine Creek Race Club during the 1977-78 financial year?
2. Was that amount subsequently altered and, if so, why?

ANSWER

The Betting Control Board in making its recommendation for the distribution of the board's fund for 1976-77 pointed out that there was need for an official policy to be established in arriving at a fair and equitable distribution of the funds rather than just basing it on the previous year's figures.

The formula adopted by the Administrator's Council for the distribution of the board's 1976-77 funds took into accounts the club's capital expenditure, the level of prize moneys offered and any special circumstances. Since the Pine Creek Race Club had no capital expenditure in 1976-77 and held its only meeting at the Katherine race course, the allocation according to the new formula amounted to \$1,600 which was \$400 less than the figure recommended by the Betting Control Board, i.e. \$2,000, which was the same amount as that allocated for 1975-76.

The formula is designed to reflect the individual club's effort to promote and improve the standard of racing in the Northern Territory and automatic continuation or increases of the annual allocation would be neither justified nor fair to those clubs whose effort was relatively greater than that of others.

621 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Are changes proposed to the system of registering firearms and, if so, what are they?

ANSWER

It is proposed to review the Firearms Ordinance, including the system of registration, as soon as resources permit. There are no firm proposals at present but the views of interested parties will be sought before the review is completed.

624 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

1. What amount of money has been made available for the control of such noxious weeds as hyptis, sida, flannel weed, cassia weed and other

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

common weeds on crown land in the Top End?

2. How many staff and how much money are being devoted to research and study to control these weeds?

ANSWER

1. Noxious weed control on crown land is a functional responsibility of each of three district agricultural officers in AI and A Branch and the necessary funds are part of the total allocation to these officers for their operational requirements. Within their allocation it is estimated that for each district, expenditure on noxious weed control during 1977-78 will be -

Darwin	\$2,600
Katherine	\$3,600
Alice Springs	\$2,000
	<hr/>
	\$8,200

2. As well as conducting eradication and control programs, research is carried out on noxious weeds. One officer is engaged full-time on weeds research and his operational expenses are estimated to be \$2,500 for 1977-78.

627 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr EVERINGHAM

Has he seen the articles in the recent edition of the National Times newspaper? Can he confirm that the Northern Territory executive has decided not to proceed with the purchase of Willeroo and to purchase instead Wollongorang Station? Does he propose to legalise cannabis and will he send Mr Rex Jettner to investigate the feasibility of growing cannabis at Wollongorang?

ANSWER

I regard the question by the honourable member as a facetious one and it is accepted in the spirit in which it is given. I dare say that, if committees of inquiry that are considering the legalisation or the decriminalisation of cannabis in the states or if the Commonwealth does come down with recommendations that cannabis should be legalised or decriminalised, the Northern Territory executive would have to look very closely at the position in the Northern Territory. I do not, however, see any prospect of the Northern Territory executive purchasing Wollongorang Station; in fact, at the present time there appears to be little prospect that the Northern Territory executive will be purchasing Willeroo Station.

628 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr TUXWORTH

Has he seen the report on the dumping of the bodies of diseased dogs at the dry dump at Humpty Doo by the SPCA? Does the Health Department intend to prosecute the president or other officers of the SPCA for this gross breach of health regulations?

ANSWER

I have to be quite honest and say to the honourable member and to members of the House that I have not seen the report to which she alludes. However, I would like to raise a point here. I am quite happy for the Department of Health to come back with a reply to it but it is my understanding that the administration of garbage dumped in the Northern Territory is the fitting responsibility of the Department of Local Government. I think the question should be referred to my colleague.

629 Mr DONDAS to Mr STEELE

Is it true that, because of a technical problem, the proposed new licence plates for motor vehicles recently displayed by the executive member are now not going to be used in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

There were some technical problems regarding the number plates that were recently displayed but the NT government will be introducing new reflectorised plates with the "NT Outback Australia" slogan. The actual timing is subject to financial considerations while the colour will be ochre on white. The decision to provide reflectorised plates was based on safety considerations and although the plates will cost more, they are expected to help in reducing road accidents, particularly those where a vehicle runs into another parked on the edge of the road. In considering this, it has to be recognised that the average third party claim is excessive and these costs are passed on to all motorists in third party premiums.

630 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

My question refers to the guarantees of which he has spoken from the

Australian government concerning funding for the Northern Territory in future. Has the guarantee been embodied in a documentary form, or is it at this stage simply a verbal understanding? If it is in written form, will he undertake to table it in the Assembly?

ANSWER

As I have explained to the House on numerous occasions - presumably, the honourable Leader of the Opposition has not taken notice of this as he has not appeared to take notice of a number of things I have said - the financial arrangements will be embodied in documentary form. The Executive Member for Finance and Planning and myself considered a draft list of principles to be embodied in such an agreement at our meeting with certain federal ministers in Canberra last week. In due course, when the draft agreement is prepared and settled and executed by the parties, a copy of it will be tabled in this Assembly.

631 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

What steps have been taken to establish a Northern Territory Health Commission?

ANSWER

As honourable members would be aware, it was earlier proposed by ourselves and former Assemblies that a Northern Territory Health Commission be established to give to the administration of health in the Northern Territory an input from the local people. In 1973 there was an inquiry into the operation of the Commonwealth Department of Health in the Northern Territory and it came back with a pretty serious indictment on the operations of the department. The Legislative Council of the day was the first to advocate the establishment of a commission and that was carried forward after the elections of 1974. However, I believe even those events have been overshadowed now by the offer of the federal government to transfer the total administration and control of health care and services in the Northern Territory to this House, which gives us a much greater control and a much greater input into the administration of health services than we would have had by having a Northern Territory commission operating in tandem with the federal Department of Health. For this reason there will not now be a Northern Territory health commission and no further work has been done on the proposal.

632 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Will the agreement between the federal government and the Legislative Assembly contain the principle of assured escalation of funding, based on CPI movements?

ANSWER

As I indicated to the honourable Leader of the Opposition previously, when the draft agreement has been settled and agreed by the parties, a copy of it will be tabled in the Assembly. The honourable Leader of the Opposition will have his opportunity to debate the document at that time.

633 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr TUXWORTH

In view of the fact that more permanent housing is available in Darwin now, what is being done to make sure that there are no more than two caravans on a city block?

ANSWER

A review of this situation started about six weeks ago. I have received representations from the Health Department and also from the caravan park industry in the Northern Territory. The problem that has arisen is simply one of event of post-1974 not being rectified. We introduced into the Assembly in 1975, as honourable members would remember, a bill that enabled as many as six caravans to be sited on a domestic house block, subject to the provision of satisfactory sanitation on the block. It was never envisaged in those days that more than one caravan on a site was acceptable and that, as soon as the situation was able to be rectified, it would be rectified. I believe we have reached a point where the provision of new housing and the development of satisfactory parks will enable us, for health reasons if for no other reason, to get caravans out of domestic premises, other than the owner van, and back into a more satisfactory and a more sanitary situation.

634 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Will the agreement between the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly and the federal government be tabled in the Assembly before 1 July this year?

ANSWER

I doubt that the agreement will be tabled in this Assembly before 1 July this year. However, the Assembly has before it comprehensive reports and statements from myself as the various negotiations have progressed. I propose to table later in these sittings a further statement advising this House exactly the state of the negotiations at the present time. I believe that full details, although not in a documentary form, as to what it is intended the Northern Territory should enter into with the Commonwealth in relation to financial arrangements will be before this House as at 1 July.

635 Mr HARRIS to Mr PERRON

Who is financing the electricity reticulation to Malak 1?

ANSWER

The electricity reticulation to Malak 1 is being done under the same arrangements as has prevailed previously in subdivisions around Darwin in the past. The funding is being provided by the federal government and spent by the Department of the Northern Territory under its urban development program.

636 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr TUXWORTH

Is he aware that three bookmakers have recently stopped fielding at race meetings conducted by the Darwin Turf Club? Is he also aware that Mr Alex Fong Lim has announced his intention to quit the bookmaking industry from June 30 because of tax measures which make it uneconomic for him to continue in operation? Is it the executive's policy, as rumoured, that bookmakers are to be eased out of the industry so that it would be easier to introduce TAB?

ANSWER

I think a reasonable reply to the first part of the question would be to say that I think it is premature for any bookmaker to move out of the

industry for a tax that has not yet been introduced. The second part of the question about...

Member interjecting.

Mr TUXWORTH: The honourable member's interjection seems to suggest these people who have moved out of the industry have a greater foresight than the other 40 who want to stay in it. Knowing bookmakers and the percentage gained, as I do, I would rather put my money on the 40 who are in it than on the three who have gone out.

In relation to Mr Fong Lim who has been mentioned by the honourable member, it is my understanding that while Mr Fong Lim may be going out of the industry at this stage and he may have attributed his exit to the introduction of the turnover tax, I did hear some six months ago that he had foreshadowed his retirement from the industry come what may. There could be a little more to it than what meets the eye.

Mr Speaker, the honourable member also raised the possibility of easing people out of the industry for the introduction of TAB. If the honourable member has not got the idea now, that we are very keen to see people stay in the industry rather than the introduction of TAB, then she is not going to get it today.

637 Mr HARRIS to Mr TUXWORTH

Does the Department of Health have any plans for the use of the Darwin Hospital when the Casuarina Hospital is opened?

ANSWER

It is my understanding that the Department of Health has some plans that they may have foreshadowed for the use of the hospital. It is envisaged, I believe, that a psychiatric unit be established in the hospital, that the geriatric services that are not available in Darwin at the moment will be established in the hospital, and that other special paramedic facilities will be introduced into the hospital which would not normally fit into the complex at Casuarina.

I have also had an approach from private practitioners who have indicated that a group of doctors and or other people are likely to be interested in establishing a private hospital in Darwin, if they were able to lease a part of the old Darwin hospital. I have not given any serious thought to it and I have not asked the department for an attitude on it, but I believe it is something we could well afford to look at.

638 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

In view of his request to us at the last sittings to place our questions with regard to Willeroo on notice, can he tell the House when we might receive answers to some 35 questions which are still on the notice paper relating to Willeroo?

ANSWER

The honourable gentleman is having a lot of trouble with the replies that he gets from people on his side of the House. I indicated to him at that time - and I do not intend to move from this position - that the answering of questions will be made a lot easier when people transfer over to the new departments after 1 July.

639 Mr HARRIS to Mr TUXWORTH

In reference to a recent ABC news report, could the honourable member say whether he has any knowledge of a subcommittee report on the Northern Territory forestry program which was commenced in 1959?

ANSWER

I have heard radio reports on this particular report that the honourable member mentions and I would ask that I be given an opportunity later in this sittings to reply to the question.

640 Mr DOOLAN to Mr TUXWORTH

Could he tell members the purchase price of the 436 square kilometres acquired from Auvergne Station to be used as a national park? Who owns Auvergne Station and who is responsible for this purchase?

ANSWER

The honourable member would obviously require some written reply on that and I would ask that he put it on notice.

641 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr EVERINGHAM

Assuming the honourable member has read the most recent Parliamentary Newsletter dated 2 March and noted that keep-fit gymnastic courses are planned at Westminster - and feeling sure he knows who Norm is - does he plan to institute a physical fitness program to accommodate members of the Legislative Assembly and, if so, when and where?

ANSWER

In answer to the honourable member's question, it is pretty obvious that we do not live in the lap of luxury here in the Northern Territory as honourable members of some other parliaments apparently do. I doubt very much whether any honourable members opposite would need lessons in gymnastics as they appear to be very adapt at that pursuit already. Therefore, it would seem to me to be a purposeless waste of public money to put a gymnasium in this Assembly, besides which I doubt very much whether we could persuade our friend the Clerk to agree to such a course.

642 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr TUXWORTH

Can he advise when the draft of the proposed new Mental Defectives Ordinance will be ready?

ANSWER

The proposed ordinance is in its final stage of drafting and it is anticipated that it will be ready for introduction at the next sittings.

643 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

When will facilities be established in Territory centres to treat alcohol and drug dependents?

ANSWER

There are already some facilities in the Northern Territory that are designed to help people who are dependent upon alcohol. However, they are

not developed to a satisfactory stage, nor are they integrated into an overall health program. As of 1 January when health is transferred to the Assembly, it is proposed that the treatment and rehabilitation of alcoholics and people on drugs will be integrated into the health services in the Northern Territory and that provisions be made in every centre for facilities for this exercise.

644 Mr PERKINS to Mr ROBERTSON

Will he advise the House concerning progress on the reviewing of the Local Government Ordinance and when we may expect amending legislation to be introduced into this Assembly?

ANSWER

Along with honourable member for MacDonnell, I share a deep concern for the need to revise this piece of legislation. It is a most complex and vexed question. He seems, as usual of course, to be in a panic to do anything so long as it is not the correct thing. I am not going to force draftsmen into producing a bill for this House's consideration until such time as all research has been done, all investigations have been carried out and we can produce the best possible Local Government Ordinance available in this country. I will not be stampeded by his protestations, made generally in ignorance.

645 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr EVERINGHAM

Is the Majority Leader aware of the long delays in processing pistol licences for members of pistol clubs such as that at Gove? If so, what steps will be taken to speed up this paper work?

ANSWER

I am aware of the delays experienced in obtaining a licence to own a pistol, particularly by people belonging to the Gove Pistol Club. I have made representations to the Police Commissioner under whose jurisdiction the granting of these licences falls. I am told that some of the problems in granting the licences more speedily derive from the legislation itself. I understand they are granted fairly speedily in Darwin and Alice Springs. However, a general review of the firearms legislation is to be undertaken as soon as drafting and other departmental resources permit. I would hope that before the end of 1979 the Northern Territory will see new and hopefully better firearms legislation.

646 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

I ask this question for the fifth time - can he tell us what use is to be made of the land and buildings which formerly comprised the Arafura Hostel? Will the executive consider a request, if one is received, to use part of the facilities there for a residential rehabilitation centre for alcoholics?

ANSWER

The honourable member for Fannie Bay seems to believe that, as soon as a particular block of ground or a building becomes vacant, it is absolutely essential that its future use be immediately decided upon. As far as I understand, this matter has not been decided upon firmly. A number of alternatives are being looked at for the area concerned. I do not believe there is any particular rush to allocate this site to another use.

The same goes for various sites throughout Darwin that have not been allocated for any particular use. I do not always see a necessity for rush. Whether the executive would consider an application to use the site for temporary premises to assist alcoholics, I think she said - certainly, the executive will consider any application that is presented to it in a rational manner and will take it on board in considering any such future use for this site or indeed for any other site.

647 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

When will the Department of Health implement a policy of educating the public, particularly school children, concerning the hazards associated with drug abuse?

ANSWER

The Department of Health has had for some time a program for educating the public concerning the abuse of drugs and the problems that result from a dependency of people on drugs. However, in relation to the honourable member's reference to such a program being introduced for children of school age, the department is rather reluctant to be involved in such a program at this stage because several programs of this nature in other parts of the world have brought the realisation that in many cases the program does nothing but awaken a curiosity in the children. Although they are trying to help, the back lash result is that more children become involved with drugs than they help to avoid them.

648 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

Knowing that the honourable member is fully aware of the problems of the farmers in the Daly River area, with frequent floods, and knowing how fertile the land is, how far have the hydrological and engineering studies and investigations proceeded on the construction of a dam on the Daly River at the Mt Nancar site?

ANSWER

Enough engineering and hydrological investigations of the Mt Nancar dam site have been carried out by the Water Resources Branch to allow preliminary feasibility studies and estimates to be made for the construction of a dam. Before a firm proposal and a detailed design can be prepared some additional engineering and geological studies need to be completed. It is known that a dam at Mt Nancar would have considerable potential as a multi-purpose structure, with benefits including flood mitigation, irrigation, water supply and hydro-electric power generation. Such a project also needs to be considered in relation to the potential development of other dam sites on the Daly River system and to the areas of land suitable for irrigation. Some further work to define irrigation areas also needs to be done to supplement earlier work.

649 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr TUXWORTH

Is there a proposal within the Department of Health to surrender the quarantine reserve currently situated at East Arm? Is there a further proposal to shift the quarantine and isolation facilities to the site of the Casuarina hospital?

ANSWER

I am not aware of any such proposal but I will undertake to get this information for the member during this sitting.

650 Mr HARRIS to Mr PERRON

Private land owners are being asked by letter either to rebuild or make safe their properties. What does the government propose doing with its own blocks?

ANSWER

The Department of the Northern Territory believes that most of the government owned blocks around Darwin that have had derelict buildings on them since Cyclone Tracy have been cleaned up to a stage where they are at least safe. I think it is quite obvious that, while they may be safe as far as windborne debris is concerned in any future big blow that we might have, they are in a terrible state. The responsibility for keeping them clean and free of rubbish and grass and such like is still that of the Department of the Northern Territory. After 1 July when the Territory executive takes control of this area we proposed that a program of cleaning up government land around Darwin be instituted as soon as possible. We recognise the fact that it is inequitable for the government to ask people to maintain their own land to a particular standard whilst the government does not do so on its own land.

651 Mr COLLINS to Mr ROBERTSON

Is it true that a contract has been let for the replacement of glass louvres in Northern Territory schools at a greater per unit price than they are available locally?

ANSWER

As members would know, in attempting to answer a question like this, the matter is one for the Department of Education for which I only have liaison responsibilities. The information the honourable member requires is something which I do not have readily at hand but I will attempt to find out the information for him later in the sittings.

652 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

Can he give an indication as to when a training scheme will be implemented to train executives and staff for the Northern Territory tourist industry?

ANSWER

I can give the honourable member some information on that and I can do it because he gave me a couple of hours notice. The advice I received from the Tourist Board is that they have just completed an audio-visual program which runs for 15 minutes entitled "Regional Tourism in the Northern Territory". This program has already been screened once in Alice Springs to leading executives and was screened in Darwin at a similar seminar staged by the Department of the Northern Territory on 31 May. I can assure the honourable member that the board is in the process of presenting programs of an education nature for tourism in as many centres as possible and will continue to do this throughout 1978-79. If the honourable members of this House are interested, I can get copies of the papers and the discussions at these forums for honourable members' own information.

653 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Has he held discussions recently with the Home Building Society to request

it to drop its interest rates in the Northern Territory to bring them, belatedly, into line with the states and, if so, what are the results of those discussions?

ANSWER

I have not held discussions with the Home Building Society of the Northern Territory recently in relation to their interest rates. Unfortunately, over the past three weeks or so, I have spent very little time in Darwin, having been engaged most of the time in Canberra and other places where I certainly would rather not be. I will endeavour to take this matter up with the Home Building Society to see whether it can review the position in the near future.

I do recall, however, that I informed this House quite some time ago that the problem was that, if the Home Building Society lowered its rates here, then there would be an outflow of capital to Queensland building societies which are still offering an interest rate that is a point higher than the Home Building Society's rate would be if it lowered its rate. The effect on Territory borrowers would be adverse because there would be much less money available through the society for financing home purchasers. This is something I certainly would not want to see. I would assume that even the honourable Leader of the Opposition can see that it is better to get some money for home purchasers, even if the interest rate is half a percent higher, than to go without.

654 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr ROBERTSON

Is it a fact that the Corporation of the City of Darwin paid a sum of \$120,000 for the block of land adjacent to the Travelodge, commonly known as Doug Lockward's house? If this is a fact and there was no poll of ratepayers to allow the purchase, has he exercised his discretion to allow the Corporation of the City of Darwin to proceed with such a purchase, without such a poll?

ANSWER

In answer to the question, we again get back to the basic principle which I have enunciated in this place and which I know is the principle of my Majority Party and this government - that is, that we will interfere to the absolute minimum in areas where autonomy should rightfully lay with organisations which are set up under laws of the Northern Territory. If that is the decision of the Darwin City Corporation, then so be it; it is their decision.

It is only when the corporation breaks the law in respect of local government matters that the minister should be involved. That is the practice carried out by ministers right throughout this country. Incidentally, I am unaware personally of this matter to which the member refers; I do know the corporation's plans for that area and quite frankly they are, while grand, I think rather commendable. If the city corporation was to make such a request to me and there was no reason at law why it should not be done, then I would not interfere in what is properly its role in local government. After all, I repeat, we use the word "government".

655 Mr DOOLAN to Mr EVERINGHAM

As the poaching problem must undoubtedly increase with the introduction of a 200-mile fishing zone, does the government propose to take measures to police poaching within that zone?

ANSWER

The honourable member for Victoria River has posed an interesting question. In a way the question is to some extent the responsibility of my colleague, the Executive Member for Transport and Industry, as fisheries fall within his portfolio. However, I have taken some interest in the matter of coastal defence and surveillance and I would attempt to answer the question as best I can.

The problem of poaching will mainly be a problem of the Commonwealth government in that it will be its prerogative to maintain whatever sovereignty Australia proposes to attempt to enforce over the 200-mile limit through either its defence forces or through its foreign affairs powers. I would not see the Northern Territory government becoming involved in the matter of policing poaching. It may be that, if a coastguard operation is set up - and I have still nothing better on this than rumours that it may be - it would be one of the responsibilities of the coastguard, presuming it was set up by the Australian government, to police these fishing and economic zones. Certainly it is, I believe, the function of the United States Coast Guard to police the United States fishing zone.

As members would know, zones of economic influence have been proclaimed in the northern hemisphere of the Pacific Ocean and in the Atlantic Ocean for quite some time now and obviously the fact that Taiwanese and South Korean fishermen can no longer fish in traditional fishing zones close to the Russian, Alaskan and Canadian coasts is going to force these fishermen to come south and to trespass in areas that Australia has traditionally regarded as its preserve. Therefore, I recognise the importance of the question posed by the honourable member for Victoria River and will certainly take steps to follow this up with the Commonwealth government to see if I can provide him with a more detailed answer as to what is proposed.

656 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

Is the executive member aware that Shell Oil Company is intending to convert its three Darwin service stations to self-service, thus destroying the jobs of 40 people, either part-time or full-time? Will he take action to ensure that these displaced employees are found alternative employment?

ANSWER

I understand that there are self-service petrol stations throughout Australia. I do not think the concept is anything new. I would not be surprised if the ACTU have self-service stations in Victoria but that would need a little bit of investigation. As for the employees, if they care to come and see me, recommended to me by the honourable gentleman himself, I will find them a job.

657 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr ROBERTSON

We have heard a proposal that there are to be on-the-spot litter fines introduced in the Darwin city corporation area. Is there a similar proposal for implementation in other municipalities in the Territory?

ANSWER

I think it is sufficient to say that we, on this side of the House, will go to any length to overcome the litter problem right throughout the

Territory. There are all sorts of suggestions which we are currently examining, from those used in Singapore to those used in New Zealand. I think perhaps a mix of the two would be useful. The problem is one that holds wide concern for the whole community. All sorts of alternatives will be examined and are being examined by this executive and, of course, are being examined by the various municipalities. If municipalities wish assistance in legislation to frame counter-litter measures within their areas of responsibility, they will certainly get support from this side of the Chamber.

658 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

Could the honourable executive member advise me whether it is a fact that work on the laboratory at the Casuarina Hospital is falling behind schedule?

ANSWER

I believe the assertion in the honourable member's question is correct that, in fact, the contractor working on the laboratory at the Casuarina Hospital is some three to four months behind schedule and I have been advised that the Department of Construction is entering into discussions with the contractor now to try to overcome the problems and see that the work is brought forward.

659 Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

When is it proposed to commence work on Darwin's second power station and how will this be financed?

ANSWER

I am a little at a loss; the area is still with my colleague, the Executive Member for Finance and Planning. Perhaps he should attempt to answer the question.

Mr PERRON: Work has been proceeding on a second power house for Darwin for some years. However, recently an alternative source is being looked at and that is the possibility of obtaining electricity from the Ord River scheme by way of hydro-electric generation. The matter is virtually under continuous review and has never ceased to be so. The inference from the honourable member's question was that no work has been done on a second power house for Darwin. There is the possibility of at least two distinct alternatives for an increased power supply for Darwin. Work is actually proceeding on both of these at an investigational level and will continue until such time as the most practical way for increasing Darwin's power supply is finally determined.

660 Mr HARRIS to Mr STEELE

With reference to the recent taxi dispute, is the executive member able to state the present position?

ANSWER

The present position is that a court case is pending which will resolve certain matters related to registration and licensing which are in dispute, particularly where the licence is held to a particular vehicle. There are 50 taxis in Darwin, four are Keetley's, eight are working for Associated Cabs, 37 are working for Darwin Coop Taxis. One is the subject of the court case and is currently not operating.

Representations have been made by Associated Cabs and by the Leader of the Opposition that more licences ought to be released for operation in the Darwin area. On a population basis of one licence to 750 persons, the licences warranted would be 60 or thereabouts - the greater Darwin population being 45,164 persons as at 30 June 1976. The economic effect of additional licences on the industry is being researched by the Department of Transport and Works. This will form a guide to the number, if any, of additional licences which ought to be released.

Interviews have been conducted with six owner-drivers, one driver who is a lessee and two lessees. A full analysis of the data received has not yet been completed. However, the feeling has developed that the prevailing economic conditions would not permit more than four or five additional licences being released. It is emphasised that the investigation is still in its early stages.

The executive has approved the basis for reforming the relevant legislation. Drafting instructions are being prepared and are nearly completed but it is not expected to see a draft bill before October 1978.

661 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

Which officers of the Primary Producers Board are negotiating the sale of crops at Willeroo and what success are they having?

ANSWER

I have not got an up-to-date report on the progress of the crop, but I will call for a report and advise the honourable gentleman later in the day.

662 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr ROBERTSON

Who employs the teachers in the Northern Territory? What place does the Director of Education have and what are the mechanics of advancement for a teacher in the teaching service in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I think it would almost need a ministerial statement to cover that one. It is a very long and involved question but perhaps, if the House will bear with me, I will attempt to answer it. In respect of the first section, which asks who employs teachers in the Northern Territory - it is, of course, the Commonwealth Teaching Service, through the Commissioner of the Commonwealth Teaching Service based in Canberra. The place of the Director of Education within the teaching service is nil. He is a first assistant secretary. In fact, to use the present director's words, he has all responsibility and no power in respect of teachers.

The mechanism for a promotion - and I assume that promotion to higher duties means straight promotion to a position - is a very involved field. It involves, first of all, being eligible for the position - eligibility having two facets: one being educational eligibility and the other having an experience component. The qualification barrier, if it might be called that, is set by the Commonwealth Teaching Service itself. The panel for assessing eligibility from one band to another - this is not the promotion itself but eligibility for promotion from one band to another - comprises usually the principal of the school in which the person teaches or the deputy principal - or, if it is the principal himself going for a higher band, then of course a principal from another school - a person who might be regarded as a superior officer, a person from a higher rank or a supervisory rank, and a peer within the same school. This provides the mechanism for assessing the teacher's eligibility for promotion. This only gives us eligibility. When a position comes up the teacher applies for it and this goes to another panel, assuming the person is eligible, which is appointed by the Director of Education and comprises a similar structure with the exception that it normally has a member of COGSO in it and a direct representative of the Northern Territory Teachers Federation. That panel then makes a recommendation - I suppose it could be described as a recommendation - to the Director of Education who transmits that recommendation to the Commissioner of the Commonwealth Teaching Service in Canberra. It is very rare, of course, that recommendations are refused either by the director - in fact, probably unheard of by the director - and very rarely refused by the commissioner himself.

In the event - and it is a very important event and it does happen - where the original assessment panel is of the view, for one reason or another, usually based on such matters as relative experience - although, of course, that was in the original guidelines as to eligibility on what we call the barrier system - but assuming the reason given was lack of leadership qualities, then of course there must be an appeal provision, and there is. What the teacher who has been disappointed does is that he appeals to the Commissioner of the Commonwealth Teaching Service in Canberra, stating his grounds for appeal. In other words, if it is a matter of leadership, then he indicates in writing to the commissioner, on the appeal, his grounds for believing he has that expertise in leadership. I daresay he can call upon other people from both inside and outside the school environment in which he works to establish that claim of having a standard of leadership. The Commissioner of the Commonwealth Teaching Service will then refer the matter back to the original panel which did the assessment in the first place and, while that may seem like Pilate judging Pilate, it is quite common in the light of new information and in the light of representations and that sort of thing for the original assessing panel to change its mind and thereupon the person would, from that appeal, become eligible for promotion. I know I have sort of worked around the subject, Mr Speaker, but I hope it helps the honourable member.

663 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

Are Mr McGill and Mr Moulder the two officers of the Primary Producers Board negotiating the sale of crops at Willeroo?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do not know whether one of us has got the story wrong or not, but I thought I had just said that I will call for a report and advise the honourable member later today.

664 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr PERRON

My question concerns the recent press statement that he made about the proposed participation of the Northern Territory in the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement. Can he confirm to the Assembly whether the Territory will be a participant in that housing agreement and, if so, will he table the terms of the agreement in the Assembly?

ANSWER

Unfortunately, at this time I cannot confirm that the Territory will be a participant. I certainly expect that we will be. We are waiting for final correspondence from the federal minister on this matter. However, when it is finalised, I will certainly table copies of the agreement in the Assembly and, if necessary, I can table copies of the Commonwealth state act which is currently before federal parliament when it is passed - I believe it will be passed during these current federal sittings - which explains in detail all the provisions of the agreement between the Commonwealth and the states. We are just waiting for confirmation that the Territory will actually participate in it for the next financial year 1978-1979, the only doubt being that it is the transitional year for us coming under the normal state financial arrangements with the Commonwealth, and so this matter has to be clarified.

665 Mr DONDAS to Mr STEELE

What special provisions have been made to provide off-peak tariff to electricity users for irrigating horticultural crops and what special provisions or arrangements have been made to allow concessional water charges for rural areas?

ANSWER

The short answer is no. However, it is presumed the honourable member means the rural area, the area of say 40 miles out of Darwin. There are few people engaged full time on agricultural activities out there except the pig producers and egg producers, and at this time no provisions are made for an off-peak relaxation of charges.

666 Mr PERKINS to Mr ROBERTSON

When may I expect an answer to my question No. 191 concerning the provision of the Community Access Centre in Alice Springs?

ANSWER

I apologise to the honourable member for MacDonnell for not answering that question. I could have, I suppose, given him an interim answer. But it is a matter of detailed policy study. I have officers of my department working on it fairly constantly to try and come up with the best possible use of these centres. Certainly in Alice Springs, an area he is most interested in at this stage I would imagine, I had the permanent head of the Department of Community Development down there just last week discussing this very issue with people in the community, people who have been involved in community work, and with officers of the public service who actually operate from Alice Springs, trying to work out the best possible use. I think it would be rather wasteful of me to attempt to commit the Northern Territory executive to a program without thoroughly researching it and ensuring that the best possible benefit is made to the community through these officers. I would hope to be in a position to give a detailed statement to the House in the near future.

667 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr ROBERTSON

Can he yet advise if he has had any success, or any hope of success, in approaches to the federal cabinet regarding the reinstatement of the theatrette at the Dripstone High School?

ANSWER

The answer, as I give every session in this Assembly, is no. In fact, I must admit becoming a little bit disheartened on the program. It does not seem to be any closer to resolution now than it was when she first raised the matter here months ago. It has reached the stage of the new Territory executive considering the future of performing arts centres in the Top End. This, in itself, will have an impact on any decision to establish a theatrette of that nature in the new Dripstone High School. I do not necessarily see the two things as being totally connected because, of course, one service is for a school and the other service is for the whole community - though the one that is in the school could also service the community.

It is now becoming fairly evident, I regret to say, that concerts and programs which are being conducted in the theatre of the Community College are not being supported by the community at large. It seems to me to be a great pity, when you get a group of the brilliance of the quartet which we recently had at the Community College, that a day before the event we can only have 25 bookings. There must be a reason for this and I suppose the reason could well lie in the image that a person has in going out for a night's entertainment. I think this is very true. It is why you normally find major theatres and entertainment complexes in the heart of the city. It is part of going to the restaurant, going to the theatre afterwards or going to the theatre and then to a restaurant afterwards. For some reason or another it is patently clear that the present theatre in the Darwin Community College complex is not being utilised by the community in Darwin. Those who are responsible for the expenditure of another million plus dollars would be looking at those figures and having regard to them.

668 Mr HARRIS to Mr PERRON

Is consideration being given to setting a special rate for electricity and other utilities consumed by community organisations such as the YWCA?

ANSWER

The short answer to the question is no. The principle the Majority Party adheres to in regard to the payment by various organisations for government services is that they should truly reflect in their costs the costs of the organisation and pay the full charges. If there is a case for a subsidy by any particular organisation because it may be either providing services that the government may have to provide if it were not there or similar situations, then it can present a case for financial subsidy from what will be the Northern Territory government after 1 July and these will be considered on their merits in each situation. We believe the provision of government services to these premises should be at the same rates that everyone else pays, so that everyone realises exactly what the true costs of running these organisations really are.

669 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Will he table the agreement between the receiver of NADC and the Northern Territory executive which enables the Primary Producers Board to sell all or part of the crop at Willeroo?

ANSWER

I am not aware of the existence of any such agreement. I will certainly seek to find out if there is any such agreement and if there is, after I have read it, I will consider whether it should be tabled in this House. I would be very surprised to find that there is any such agreement in existence.

670 Mr DONDAS to Mr STEELE

What is the situation regarding the training of apprentices in the various departments that are being transferred to the Territory executive on 1 July?

ANSWER

The Electricity Commission has appointed 15 new apprentices in 1978 and the Department of Construction has appointed as many apprentices as staff ceilings and other constraints will allow. Most of the apprentices will transfer to the Northern Territory Public Service. Other new Territory departments are being encouraged to appoint apprentices.

671 Mr COLLINS to Mr TUXWORTH

This is in addition to a question previously asked of the honourable executive member. Could he advise me of the latest situation regarding the provision of a new health centre at Alyangula?

ANSWER

The honourable member referred to a previous question about the health centre at Alyangula. Perhaps my memory fails me. I do not have the information the honourable member wants at my finger tips. However, I will endeavour to get it for him today.

672 Mr OLIVER to Mr TUXWORTH

Is it a fact that children are being charged for orthodontist treatment at the departmental clinics in the Territory and, if so, why?

ANSWER

It is likely that most children in the Northern Territory will be paying orthodontic fees in dental surgeries in the Northern Territory as a result of the revised fee structure adopted some months ago. The only exception I would be aware of, to the rule of having to pay for services, would be for those children who are disfigured and psychologically disturbed as a result of their situation with their teeth and those people who would normally receive free dental service by virtue of a means test would also have their children treated free.

We keep coming back to the same old problem of orthodontics and the provision of orthodontic care. It does not even matter very much whether we charge for them because we cannot get orthodontists to come here. I have raised this matter with members on both sides of the House before and, if anybody has a formula for attracting orthodontists out of the eastern seaboard and the lush cities to come to the north and pioneer and provide a service for us, we would like to hear it.

673 Mr DOOLAN to Mr PERRON

Is it the government's intention to introduce a bore tax? If it is the

government's intention to do so, when will such a tax be introduced?

ANSWER

There is no proposition at the moment before the Territory executive to introduce a tax as mentioned by the honourable member for Victoria River. At this stage, I cannot give him any further information than that.

674 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

Can the executive member advise me when the Anula and Wulagi school dental units will be opened?

ANSWER

I understand that the department is currently recruiting therapists and staff to man the Anula and Wulagi school dental units and they should be operational in a week or two weeks.

675 Mr COLLINS to Mr STEELE

Would the honourable executive member consider, as a means of attracting orthodontists to the Northern Territory and persuading them that we are in fact a modern progressive community, taking the slogan "Outback Australia" off the number plates?

No answer given.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

649 Mr TUXWORTH: Yesterday, the honourable member for Sanderson raised the question as to whether it was the intention of the department to surrender the quarantine area at East Arm and establish a quarantine facility at Casuarina Hospital. The reply I have received from the Department of Health is as follows:

The quarantine area of East Arm is gazetted under the Commonwealth Quarantine Act. It is intended to use the quarantine station for the next year or so. It is understood that piece of land which forms the tidal island will be sought for the construction of a power station. However, that part of the quarantine reserve occupied by the leprosarium and its grounds will be retained by the Health Department. Now that smallpox has almost certainly been eliminated, in that no case has been reported anywhere in the world during the last thirty weeks, it is unlikely that we will require quarantine facilities, except on very rare occasions. To cover the latter eventuality, ward 4 of the Darwin Hospital is to be converted as a high security, infectious diseases ward to be used in the interim for other purposes and quickly evacuated to house a quarantinable case should this ever eventuate.

639 Mr TUXWORTH: I have another reply to a question raised by the honourable member for Port Darwin yesterday concerning reports on the Northern Territory forestry program and evidence to a parliamentary committee.

On Saturday morning the local ABC news reported on the tabling in the House of Representatives of a report of a subcommittee of the Standing Committee on Expenditure. This subcommittee chaired by Mr Kevin Cairns MP has investigated the Northern Territory forest program which commenced in 1959. The news report referred to the uneconomic nature of the forestry program. It censured certain officers of the Department of the

Northern Territory for not taking due notice of other officers criticising the program and expenditure, and appeared to state that the careers of the critics had been disadvantaged for being outspoken. The press report stated that the plantation program and native forestry program should be stopped.

The forestry programs previously approved by the federal Cabinet did not, I understand, support their justification on short-term economic grounds but with development programs to develop future forestry resources and to employ Aborigines in rural areas at the same time. The official attitudes of the Department of the Northern Territory some four or five years ago are a matter of their concern. I understand that two of the dissatisfied officers involved did not return to their duties after the cyclone and perhaps this also has affected their careers.

The whole matter appears somewhat personal in the context reported. The report of the subcommittee will be a contribution to the planning of the future forestry work in the Northern Territory on the transfer of the function on 1 July. Similarly, the question of the continued employment of Aborigines on forestry duties and Aboriginal land must receive very early consideration. I am informed that the direction of the forestry activities has changed in recent years to a marked extent. Existing operations on Aboriginal lands have been scaled down to protection of existing assets and employment, pending clarification of Aboriginal wishes under the changed conditions of the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act.

678 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

In view of the answer given yesterday afternoon by the Majority Leader on the executive member's behalf, can he explain to the Assembly why Mr Moulder and Mr McGill, both officers of the Primary Producers Board, are actively seeking and acquiring sales for crops on the Scott Creek-Willeroo complex?

ANSWER

The honourable gentleman is making an assumption. It is not a question at all. In fact, I think it is out of order.

679 Mr OLIVER to Mr ROBERTSON

I raise this question on behalf of the honourable member for Elsey. School children from Tennant Creek and Alice Springs attending schools at Charters Towers are being flown to and from their homes by charter aircraft. Will the same assistance be provided to students living in Katherine and Darwin?

ANSWER

I was aware that a group of children had, in fact, flown from Tennant Creek and Alice Springs by charter to Charters Towers. I am yet to get any details on the matter, having heard that this was the case and having had my curiosity raised as a result. It is my preliminary understanding that it was during a time of an airline strike. As to who paid for it and the details behind that arrangement, I have no factual information. I am unaware of any system in the Department of Education, as far as grant schemes go, that would allow children in that situation, or heading to such a destination, to be paid for by the Department of Education, if that is the inference of the question. However, I will undertake to have the matter thoroughly examined and report back to the honourable member later.

680 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

What steps have been taken to secure the lien for the Primary Producers Board on the \$150,000 advance to the Scott Creek-Willeroo venture?

ANSWER

It would be very unwise for any organisation to enter into an arrangement without a formal contract, when it comes to money. The honourable gentleman has asked me previous questions in regard to interest rates and matters of that kind. So therefore, there is a contract for the purpose of the money.

681 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr TUXWORTH

Can he tell me whether the day-care centre at Darwin Hospital has been closed? If so, can he advise if this is a permanent arrangement or if and when it will be reopened?

ANSWER

The short answer is no; I cannot tell the honourable member. However, I will endeavour to find out and let the honourable member know.

682 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr TUXWORTH

Knowing that the honourable member is aware of the considerable water-flow down the Daly, which I understand is 275 to 300 cusecs minimum flow in the dry, what is he doing to establish a small hydro-electric power unit on the Daly at the Mount Nancarr site?

ANSWER

The short answer is that I am not doing anything to establish a hydro-electric unit on the river to utilise the flow of water. But, Mr Speaker, I would make the comment that one of the first functions of the energy section of the Mines and Energy Department after 1 July will be to start to identify areas of potential electricity generation capacity and, if this is one of the areas that is available to us, then I would hope to report back to the House later in the year or early next year about the possibility of such a venture.

683 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr ROBERTSON

Can he confirm the truth of a statement that appeared in yesterday's issue of the Darwin Star, which stated that an application to him by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for a grant of \$40,000 to upgrade their facilities at Berrimah was rejected earlier this year and, if that statement is true, will he re-examine the society's application in view of the recent publicity given to their plight?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the answer to the last part of the question is, as it is for all the question I suppose, no - for the simple reason that there is no application to examine. The article that appeared in yesterday's Darwin Star - I know the person who made the press statement and, quite frankly, it is beyond my comprehension why she should make the statement she made to the Darwin Star - is quite blatantly false. No application has been made to my department; no application has been refused by me or my department.

The history is this: in February 1977 a letter was received from the woman on behalf of the SPCA in Darwin, asking for funds from the then Department of Community Services, which was then under the control of my colleague, the member for Barkly. The officer responsible in the department immediately wrote back to that person; he acknowledged receipt of the letter and asked for further details of the application for funds. Incidentally, the application contained no amount whatsoever, just a request for funds. That officer enclosed with his prompt reply an application form under the community grants scheme, as it then operated. No reply was received from the SPCA whatsoever from that date to this. There has been no application, and there has been no refusal.

684 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr ROBERTSON

My question follows questions I asked on the first day of this sittings. Firstly, is it a fact that the Corporation of the City of Darwin paid \$120,000 for a block of land adjacent to the Travelodge on which sits the building commonly known as the Doug Lockwood house. If that is correct, did he exercise his discretion in allowing the purchase to proceed without a poll of ratepayers?

ANSWER

I am intrigued by a number of parts of the question, both the day before

yesterday and today. For a start the information I have is that there has been no contract entered into - I understand that one half of a contract has been signed - for the purchase of the block, which I think is well within the province of the city corporation if it so wishes. The bit that intrigues me about the question is, where does the honourable member get the idea that there has to be a poll of ratepayers, or if there is not, why I should have to approve the loan? I have in front of me an indexed Local Government Ordinance and I cannot find any reference to it; my officers cannot find any reference to it. Can the honourable member tell me the section in order that I might know what she is talking about.

685 Mr HARRIS to Mr TUXWORTH

Could the executive member please advise me when the Food Standards Bill will be introduced into this House?

ANSWER

I believe the drafting of the Food Standards Bill is nearing completion and should be available for tabling in this House later in the year.

686 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

Does he know if there are any plans to close the DCA workshops at Parap? The land is zoned O2, I believe, on the new Darwin Town Plan. Would the executive consider using the site as a museum for the Aviation Historical Society, in view of the fact that it still contains a pre-war hangar from the days when Ross Smith Avenue was, in fact, Darwin airport?

ANSWER

I know of no such plans, as suggested by the honourable member for Fannie Bay. However, we will undertake to look at any proposals that are put forward on the subject. If a group of persons suggests that the area should be used for an aviation museum of some description, then a submission should be put forward to the relevant department. My colleague, the Executive Member for Community and Social Development, would be pleased to receive such an application, I am sure.

687 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr ROBERTSON

I ask this question on behalf of the honourable member for Elsey. What is the present position of practical education as related to the proposed rural college?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, as you would be aware, more than any other member in this Chamber, there has been a long history of investigations into the possibility or, we hope, the probability of practical rural training - call it what you like: you can call it a rural college or what you wish - for the Katherine area. I am well aware, Sir, of your attitudes to it and quite frankly, I support them fully. The Majority Party has formed a committee of back benchers to further examine the matter. I have on my desk at the moment a report from a committee of inquiry within the Department of Education to the Further Education Council which I believe gets much closer to reality than what we have ever been before. The Further Education Council, as you would be aware, Mr Speaker, is an advisory group to the federal Minister for Education and therefore I do not think it would be proper for me to make public internal reports within that organisation. I would be more than happy to give you, Sir,

a copy of this and to discuss it with you at length and get your further views on it.

688 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr ROBERTSON

Does the Corporation of the City of Darwin make use of the SPCA kennels at Berrimah for the kennelling of dogs picked up in the suburbs by its inspectors? If it does, does it make any financial contribution to the maintenance of those kennels?

ANSWER

The answer to the first part of the question is, of course, yes - and the answer would be similar in respect of the Alice Springs region, although they do not necessarily have inspectors down there. I think the performance, if I may say so, of local government corporations or town councils in respect to the activities of the SPCA to say the least of it has been miserable. The Department of Community Development has, over my signature, recently approved a \$500 grant to the SPCA in Alice Springs, so that they can buy food for the animals which are collected within that municipality.

I believe it is properly a role of local government, of city corporations and town councils, to take this matter on; it is part of their responsibility.

It is also, of course, a responsibility of the Department of Community Development to make grants to councils for operational subsidies, having regard to what is a reasonable revenue effort through rates. This is the correct order of things. But to date I think the councils have shown a singular lack of interest in this work which has been done by a group of dedicated people, very often at their own expense and always at a great loss of their own private time. I commend the SPCA - there is no doubt about that - and if the SPCA wants to make application to my department, then I will give it every sympathetic consideration in terms of grants. The role of local government, I think, is not being carried out properly in this field and it is an area where I would seek to ensure that they do carry out their functions and their responsibilities.

689 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr TUXWORTH

Can he tell me if a nurse-aid course will be introduced in the Gove District Hospital? If so, how many aids will be trained in that area?

ANSWER

I believe it is the intention of the Department of Health to introduce a nurse-aid training scheme in the east Arnhem region. As honourable members will be aware, there has been a very successful school of nurse-aid training, particularly for Aborigines, established in Alice Springs. It is doing a lot of good work: it has been a pilot project to a certain degree and it is envisaged that a similar program will be established in the east Arnhem region.

There are one or two problems with it. The program is precluded from being established there at the moment because of the regulations under the Nursing Ordinance which precludes nurse-aids being attached to hospitals of less than 50 beds and there will have to be some changes in that area.

One other problem we have, I believe, is that there are not sufficient in-patients at the Gove Hospital at the moment to warrant the

establishment of the program and perhaps a revision of the operation of the Gove Hospital and its recognition as a base hospital might be a requirement for a nurse-aid program to be established.

670A Mr PERKINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

In her public appearance on the television program TDT and on the platform at the Katherine Aboriginal land rights meeting, was Sylvia Wolf officially representing the Tourist Board of the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

It is not really within my competence to say whether Sylvia Wolf was representing the Tourist Board of the Northern Territory. I would not have thought so, but I can seek that information from the chairman of the Tourist Board if the honourable member so desires.

671A Mr DONDAS to Mr EVERINGHAM

How many applications were received by the Northern Territory Police Force for its recent training course? Is he able to tell me how many applicants were from the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

There were a total number of 431 applications of which 28 had come in before the advertisement. As to how many were permanent Northern Territory residents, 35 of the applicants were already employed in the Northern Territory and six of the local residents were successful in being taken in on that intake.

672A Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

Will traffic lights for the use of pedestrians be installed on Trower Road in the Millner-Rapid Creek area, or is it intended to instal flashing lights only at the pedestrian crossing?

ANSWER

This is a council matter and I have not examined whether there are going to be permanent traffic lights or flashing lights. Certainly it seems to me, in view of our proposal to instal a footbridge in that area, that the lights could be superfluous in the situation. However, it may be that both lights and footbridge can work hand in hand. It is a matter which we are having examined at the present time.

673A Mr OLIVER to Mr STEELE

I understand there was a meeting in Canberra recently in relation to the South Road. Does the honourable executive member have any information regarding that meeting?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I do have a report of a recent meeting which was attended by the member for Stuart. That was on 25 May with the federal Transport Minister, Mr Peter Nixon, regarding the Stuart Highway. In attendance were Sam Calder, Senators Young and Jessop, Senators Bishop, Robertson, Mr L.G. Wallace of South Australia, Mr Virgo, Transport Minister for South Australia, the mayor of Alice Springs, Mr George Smith, Mr Ken Harris of the Australian Transport Federation, Mr Gavin Carpenter of Tennant Creek and the member for Stuart.

At the outset, both Peter Nixon and Minister Virgo agreed that route 3 was acceptable to both the South Australian and federal governments. Route 3 is closest to the existing unsealed road that bypasses close to Kingoonya. Minister Nixon has asked Minister Virgo to increase expenditure from \$200,000 to \$600,000 on design and engineering studies for route 3 during the financial year 1978-79. It should be noted that this work will take from 12 to 18 months to complete and work on sealing the road from South Australia to the NT border cannot commence until the design and engineering studies have been completed. Hence 1979-80 will be the financial year when the federal government will be required to provide adequate funds for this construction work to start. The total cost, including bridge work, is estimated around \$61m.

To this end, this party will be presenting to the federal government a detailed submission supporting this allocation of funds. This submission will be supported no doubt by all members of this House. The federal minister Mr Nixon will approach Cabinet with a request for an additional \$2.3m for 1978-79 so that the unsealed section between Port Augusta and Pimba can be sealed during 1978-79.

During the past four years the federal government has provided \$66m to the South Australian government for national highway construction. This amount is separate from the national highway maintenance money. None of this \$66m has been spent on Stuart Highway construction. In summary, both the federal and South Australian governments are well aware of the CLP Majority Party's concern that this highway be constructed to an all-weather standard as quickly as possible.

674A Mr HARRIS to Mr ROBERTSON

Is he aware that an interstate-based firm has been selling photographic equipment door to door? Is he also aware that the Consumer Protection Council has received complaints about these activities? Would he please tell me what action is being taken?

ANSWER

Yes, I have been aware of the activities of a firm which is based interstate operating in the Northern Territory, in relation to its program of selling what is relatively expensive photographic equipment and then making an offer, while working door to door, including in the package deal free films for either life or a period of ten years, provided they get the guarantee of the processing. Of course, this is rather like the old freezer and the meat trick where a company goes around selling freezers door to door at above retail price, very expensive, but says you will get meat at a 50% discount for the rest of your life or for ten or fifteen years. Of course, being a limited company, it promptly goes into receivership and so much for the meat. You are just stuck with an empty, expensive freezer. I am not necessarily suggesting that this particular group would have done the same thing - they are still in business. What they were doing was offering free film, obviously on a bulk purchase.

On my information they breached the Door-to-Door Salesman Ordinance in a number of areas. On my understanding, they are harassing people - and let us face it, that is what this type of program is all about - after the hour of 8 o'clock in the evening, which is quite contrary to the law. Nor were they, on my understanding, providing the correct forms in accordance with the schedules which, of course, allow for the cooling-off period and the termination of the contract. Further, I understand that the bunnies they were using - they could only be described as that - were young people mainly from Western Australia. On my understanding,

they were given just enough money and a ticket to get to the Northern Territory and were then abandoned to their own resources, and then they refused, in fact, to pay their commissions. Their argument was, "Oh, we can't pay you the commission until such time as our principal", somewhere else and unknown, "pays us". They were also claiming that they had the full backing of a bank in the Northern Territory in terms of bank card facilities. I understand they had entered into a bank card arrangement with this bank in Alice Springs but it was quite untrue, on my information, that they had entered into any such arrangement in Darwin.

I would caution people yet again and ask the media to caution the public against people who use door-to-door sales tactics. I would suggest very strongly never to enter into an agreement first-time around. If it is an item you want, tell them to come back the next day and seek the advice of the Consumer Protection Council as to your rights. Because, while the thing on the face of it might look all very fine, you can get yourself very, very caught up in these groups who use these sorts of tactics.

675A Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr PERRON

Did he see a notice in the public notices of yesterday's edition of the Northern Territory News to the effect that an application has been made to quarry certain land for the removal of stone for the refacing of an historic building? If he did notice that notification, can he identify the building which is to be refaced?

ANSWER

I did see the notice in the paper. I do not know which building the stone that is to be quarried is intended for. I will endeavour to obtain the information and provide it to the honourable member during the course of this sittings.

676A Mrs LAWRIE to Mr PERRON

The honourable member will remember I gave him notice of this question in the adjournment debate last night. Accordingly, I ask - can he advise why the lessees of the Tropic Caravan Park have been advised by the Department of the Northern Territory that their monthly tenancy is to cease and that they are to vacate the area? Can he also tell us what is the urgency and the apparent requirements for the land and for what purpose the Department of the Northern Territory intends putting it?

ANSWER

Unfortunately, the honourable member gave forewarning of the question fairly late in the day yesterday. The machine being what it is, I have not got an answer as yet. However, I do undertake that an answer will be provided today as the information was sought first thing this morning. I will undertake to provide an answer to the House this afternoon.

677A Mr OLIVER to Mr ROBERTSON

I ask this question on behalf of the member for Elsey. What progress has been made towards providing practical education for people in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I refer the honourable member to the answer I previously gave to a question on the same subject.

678A Mrs O'NEIL to Mr ROBERTSON

Is it a fact that the building known as Palmerston House has been vacant for several years and will the executive ensure that the building does become available, as soon as possible, for community use?

ANSWER

This gets back to the philosophy as announced by my colleague, the Executive Member for Treasury, yesterday. While we recognise that it is undesirable to have buildings around Darwin, or anywhere else for that matter, unoccupied, it is necessary, firstly, to find out what needs to be done with the building to fit a purpose which has yet to be defined. You must first identify what is in the community interest for that building, then find out how much money is available to restore it to the state necessary. Then you proceed in a planned and orderly manner. Certainly, we are examining as my honourable colleague said yesterday, all buildings of public nature in Darwin to find their best possible use. These exercises, particularly in regard to staff constraints at the moment, are time consuming. We are doing our best with this problem but we will not make decisions in an ad hoc fashion.

679A Mr COLLINS to Mr STEELE

When will the sealing of the airport-Yirrkala road begin?

ANSWER

I cannot give the honourable member a date at the moment, but I will try and get the information today.

680A Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

When is it proposed to improve the section of the Stuart Highway at the 14-mile hill? Is the executive member aware that police records show that there have been many accidents on this section of the highway? Is it a fact that it is now the most dangerous section of the road between Darwin and Adelaide River?

ANSWER

The section that the honourable member refers to is under study at the moment. Unfortunately, there is no commitment for it at this early stage. We will be endeavouring to include the matter in the forward program and will try to see that it gets some priority.

681A Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

What is the estimated cost of construction materials to be purchased in the Territory for use in the Nabalco extension project? What is the estimated cost of construction materials to be purchased outside the Territory for use in the same project?

ANSWER

I think the question needs a fair bit of examination and I would ask the honourable gentleman to place his question on notice.

682A Mr HARRIS to Mr ROBERTSON

Once children have reached the tertiary education level, is there provision for government assistance for air fares? If so, could the executive

member please give some details of this assistance?

ANSWER

There are two schemes which operate in the Northern Territory. One relates to scholarships for the Commonwealth Teaching Service. This provides reimbursement of three economy-class air fares per year for holders of Commonwealth Teaching Service scholarships. It is necessary, of course, to recognise that there are less of these being issued - and by the way, that applies right throughout the states to CTS scholarships, not just the Territory - there are less of these being made available in recent times because of the well known surfeit of qualified teachers throughout Australia.

The other system is known as the Northern Territory tertiary air fare reimbursement scheme which provides for Northern Territory students who are enrolled in approved courses at approved institutions being eligible for two air fares a year on a reimbursement system. I think that, perhaps, in the future this executive would look to making these sorts of funds available in the first instance. If you have a policy which commits you to a payment, it would seem to me to be illogical to ask someone who is obviously in need of assistance for travel for tertiary purposes to have to find the money in the first place. It would seem to me the only way you could do it would be to take out a credit card, and I doubt if a student would ever get a credit card in the first place. I think it would be a little more logical for this executive to examine in the future - among many other matters of assistance to rural students - the possibility of paying this in the first instance upon warrant rather than this reimbursement scheme which presently applies.

683A Mr PERKINS to Mr STEELE

Is he aware of the media report yesterday that the US will increase its beef quota by 90,000 tonnes and Australia will account for approximately 51% of this increase? If so, what action will the CLP take to ensure that the Alice Springs and the Katherine abattoirs receive a share of the increased Australian allocation?

ANSWER

The impact of the announcement is currently being studied in respect of the effect on Northern Territory abattoirs. As soon as that information is available to us, we will make a decision based on those facts as to whether to go back to the AMLC for an increase in quotas or what particular course of action we should pursue.

684A Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr EVERINGHAM

I would like to ask again, when are repairs going to be effected to the fountain in the grounds of the police headquarters to make it a workable unit in the garden again?

ANSWER

The honourable member for Tiwi asked me a question about this at the last sittings and some action was taken. Estimates of cost were obtained for the rehabilitation of the fountain in front of the police station or the complete removal of it and conversion of the area to a lawn. The alternatives are to pay \$2,500 for rehabilitation of the fountain or to pull it out and convert the area to lawn at a cost of \$1,000. In a fit of great extravagance, Mr Speaker, I have authorised the rehabilitation of the fountain and...

Members: Hear, hear!

Mr Collins: Very good.

Mr EVERINGHAM: I am pleased that I have the support for this extravagant measure - and we have authorised, today I believe, the appropriate authority to proceed to have that fountain fixed.

The weeds on the Court House lawn is not the concern of this executive; the Court House is under the control of the Attorney-General's Department and the weeding of their lawns is their responsibility.

685A Mr OLIVER to Mr STEELE

I raise this question on behalf of the honourable member for Elsey. When will facilities for immigration and customs for passengers arriving in Darwin from overseas be upgraded in line with the city's motto of the "Gateway to Australia"?

ANSWER

I understand the Department of Transport is looking at making some re-arrangements at the Darwin airport but these will be short term and probably of little consequence unless they bulldoze it down and start again. The longer term situation is dependent on the outcome of present studies. I believe there are some proposals to move all the building up towards McMillans Road. Everything seems to be a bit of a haze when you are dealing with these people, because they do not really know where their priorities are, but perhaps we can make some suggestions to them as time goes by.

686A Mr COLLINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

What steps did the Northern Territory executive take to observe World Environment Day?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, the executive was in fact aware of "World Sunday", I think it was actually called rather than World Environment Day...

Mr Collins: No, it was World Environment Day.

Mr EVERINGHAM: Oh, sorry - I think, Mr Speaker, I was probably in Canberra on that day, in a very poor environment, battling hard for money for the Northern Territory and I was not aware of it.

687A Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr EVERINGHAM

This question concerns a message that he will deliver to the people of Darwin on the occasion of the 27th Annual Show run by the North Australia Show Society. The Majority Leader will say, and I quote: "I pledge the support of the Northern Territory government to the task of assisting in the progressive development of the facilities and resources at the show ground to enable a wider utilisation of facilities for public recreation and so that the society may meet developing social and economic needs".

My question, Mr Speaker, is this - is the Majority Leader aware that the North Australia Show Society approached the federal government in 1977 with the request for financial assistance and is it fair to accept this statement as an undertaking that his government will take over that responsibility?

ANSWER

I was not aware that the North Australia Show Society had approached the federal government in 1977 because, after all, I am not the federal government and it is really a matter for the honourable member for Sanderson, whether she considers my statement to be fair or not.

688A Mr DOOLAN to Mr STEELE

When will a start be made on the compilation of Northern Territory statistics on (1) work accidents and (2) the loss ratio of Northern Territory workmen's compensation insurance?

ANSWER

I would ask the honourable gentleman to place his question on notice.

713 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

Have problems developed between the Department of Construction and the Northern Territory executive concerning the agency arrangements to exist after 1 July? Does the Department of Construction intend to withdraw to Adelaide, and will staff not transferred to the Northern Territory Public Service from that department be transferred to Adelaide?

Mr EVERINGHAM (Majority Leader): A point of order, Mr Speaker! I understand that constitutional development is a responsibility of mine and I think this question should have been addressed by the honourable Leader of the Opposition to myself.

Mr Speaker, no problems have arisen in respect of agency arrangements between the Northern Territory executive and the Department of Construction. It has been agreed at the conference of ministers with the members of the Northern Territory executive that those members of the staff of the Department of Construction who will be handling state-like functions after 1 July will be transferred to the Department of Transport and Works, and therefore I can see there should be no problems involved in the matter at all.

714 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr TUXWORTH

In view of his statement in question time last week that the health responsibilities will be transferred to the Northern Territory government on 1 January 1979, can he tell us when he will be advising the House of details of the financial and administrative arrangements and, in particular, can he advise us whether in future hospital out-patient treatment and community health services, which are presently free, might have a charge levied against them?

ANSWER

In reply to the second part of the question, I can only say that I have not addressed myself to it at this stage. So far as the first part of the question is concerned, I believe the House will be given the full position on the financial situation that will exist between the Commonwealth and Northern Territory; as soon as this becomes available we will have this information. It is anticipated that early in July or August discussions will begin between ourselves and the Commonwealth Department of Health officials in Darwin concerning the financial arrangements that already exist and will have to exist after the transfer of health functions becomes a reality in January. As has been the case with the Majority Leader advising the House on the financial arrangements relating to the transfer, there will be no cover up or anything to hide so far as the Health Department is concerned and this House will be kept fully abreast of all developments.

715 Mr HARRIS to Mr TUXWORTH

Are any details available at this time indicating the number of people who visited Darwin during the "Back to Darwin" celebrations?

ANSWER

Very briefly, some figures have been put together by the respective airlines and the Tourist Bureau; these are not at all conclusive but would indicate that we have had an additional 8,000 people passing through Darwin in the last month as a result of the "Back to Darwin" campaign. The other interesting fact, Mr Speaker, that I received from the airlines

in the last week was that they estimate the growth rate of tourism in Darwin is 7.8%, which is not the largest in Australia by any means but it certainly streaks in front of anything that we have been able to achieve in the past three to four years.

716 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr PERRON

This morning he gave notice of bills which he wishes to introduce in the House tomorrow. Could he indicate if he intends to seek urgency on the passage of any of these bills?

ANSWER

I will not be seeking urgency for the two bills for which I gave notice this morning.

717 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Is it true that conditions of service for new recruits into the Northern Territory Public Service - that is, non-transferred staff - have not yet been settled? Does he anticipate that conditions of service for new recruits will differ substantially from transferred staff?

ANSWER

I would ask the honourable Leader of the Opposition to put this question on notice as it involves quite a bit of detail and I would like to reply to it in some detail.

718 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

What is the position of the cadet scheme for training young people to take up positions in the Fire Brigade? How many young men are in the scheme; how long is their course, and what are their rates of pay?

ANSWER

I understand there are six cadets undergoing training over a two-year period. Their present rate of pay is 45% of the adult rate in the first year, graduating upwards after that year. I think the rate - I have it written down here somewhere - is \$3,865, plus the \$360 district allowance.

719 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr ROBERTSON

In view of the statement we have that health functions will be transferred on 1 January 1979, can he confirm that education functions will also be transferred on 1 January 1979?

ANSWER

I can make no such confirmation.

720 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr ROBERTSON

I gave notice of this question in the adjournment debate on Friday. It concerns the acquisition by the Darwin City Council of the block of land adjacent to the Travelodge for \$120,000. Can he indicate to the House the source from which the \$120,000 has come and which particular area of revenue available to the council will be meeting this expenditure?

ANSWER

As the honourable member would be well aware, there has certainly been insufficient time for that information to have been obtained from the City Corporation of Darwin, having regard to the fact that it was asked for around about 5.30 pm on the Friday evening. There certainly has been no time to date to obtain that information but I will seek it, as I undertook during the adjournment debate on the last sitting day.

721 Mr HARRIS to Mr PERRON

Regarding the 32-square-mile acquisition area, what will be the future of the Darwin piggery which has been the only successful large-scale piggery in the Darwin area?

ANSWER

I have been advised by the Department of the Northern Territory that the future of the Darwin piggery has not yet been decided. The development of land acquired as part of the 32-square-mile area will not proceed until an urban development strategy plan and development plan for the area have been drawn up, publicly exhibited under normal Town Planning Ordinance procedures and approved. During the course of the planning investigations, consideration will be given to the future of the Darwin piggery but at this stage it is not possible to indicate whether this use could be accommodated satisfactorily within the planning proposals.

722 Mr DOOLAN to Mr TUXWORTH

Is he aware that there has been no rural health sister stationed at Timber Creek since late 1977? Is he aware that there is a strong possibility that because of staff ceiling limits the Wave Hill rural nursing service, which caters for the needs of some 1,500 people over an area of 2,000 square miles, may have to shut down in the near future because of lack of staff?

ANSWER

I was made aware of the situation about the end of last week and I have raised the matter with the Health Department. As soon as I have a reply from them on the issue, I will advise the honourable member of the results.

723 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr ROBERTSON

Can he inform the House when we might expect the construction of the library at Casuarina to be commenced?

ANSWER

Quite frankly, I was hoping that it had been commenced already. Certainly, it is in very advanced stages of tendering. I will find out precisely for the honourable member. I might point out, further to information I gave in the House several sitting days ago in respect of library services, I had a conversation this morning with Dr Chandler of the Australian National Library Service, so I can assure honourable members that his inquiry is now well under way. He will be here for the next three days and I hope to be able to give a detailed report to this Assembly at a later time.

724 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TUXWORTH

Following the adjournment debate on Friday, can he advise the House with regard to the Northern Territory School of Nursing: how many Northern Territory people have applied for admission for the next intake? How many were successful? How many southern applicants applied, and how many of these were successful?

ANSWER

I do not have that information at my disposal at the moment but I will endeavour to answer the question during this sitting.

725 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr TUXWORTH

In the light of recent lack of anaesthetist services in the Territory, can he tell me what is the situation regarding anaesthetist services at Gove District Hospital?

ANSWER

I also received a representation on this matter last week and the Health Department advised me that they have recently appointed another doctor to the Gove Hospital who, in fact, has a practical and theoretical qualification in anaesthesia, and that he will be performing this duty while he is stationed at Gove.

726 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr TUXWORTH

In view of the fact that ward 4 of the Darwin Hospital has been used as an annexe to ward 5 to accommodate up to 16 anti-natal patients at any one time, can he tell us where these patients will be accommodated when ward 4 becomes a special infant nutritional unit?

ANSWER

The short answer is no, but I will endeavour to find out for the honourable member.

727 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

When can the Opposition expect answers to questions on notice in relation to Willeroo? Is the executive member hoping that at the prorogation of the Assembly, the Opposition will forget to put the questions on notice once again?

ANSWER

Once again, this is not a proper question. If they do happen to fall off the notice paper, well, that would be a matter of course; it would not be a matter of machination.

728 Mr DOOLAN to Mr ROBERTSON

Is he aware that the Berry Springs school which is attended by 36 students does not have a telephone connected, and when is it proposed to rectify this situation?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I will ask the Department of Education to provide an answer.

729 Mr HARRIS to Mr PERRON

Why are demolition orders going out for the demolition of at least four houses in the 32-square-mile acquisition area in which people lived until recently?

ANSWER

I am further advised by the Department of the Northern Territory that a competent committee has been appointed - I hope they would not appoint any other kind of committee - to look at the four houses in question. A decision has already been given by the committee on one of the houses and a demolition order issued. The others are considered unsafe structurally and have had electrical defect notices issued by the electrical supply division. The issue of further demolition orders will depend on the findings of the committee.

730 Mr PERKINS to Mr PERRON

Will he advise when I may expect an answer to my question on the notice paper No. 335, which concerns the transfer of the functions from the Department of Construction over to the Northern Territory Public Service on 1 July this year?

ANSWER

As I recall, I think that question came to me within the last few days for approval of the answer and has been fed back into the system which will finally put it in the notice paper. However, I will endeavour, if the honourable member wishes, to seek the information and provide it to him during the course of these sittings in order to expedite this answer.

731 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr TUXWORTH

This is again on the vexed question of student nurses intake. Can he advise the House who pays the cost of the fare when southern people are flown to Darwin for an interview?

ANSWER

I would envisage that the taxpayer does. But if the honourable member is looking for the name of the department that pays the fare, I will endeavour to find out.

Mrs LAWRIE: Perhaps in explanation, could I advise the honourable Executive Member for Mines and Energy that when local girls fly south for interview at southern hospitals, they bear the cost of the fare. Therefore, I am trying to elicit information as to whether southern people coming to Darwin for interview bear the cost of their own fare or whether it is paid by the Department of Health. Perhaps Mr Speaker, with your indulgence, I could add a further question as to whether this practice will continue as from 1 January 1979?

ANSWER

I take the honourable member's point on the first question, Mr Speaker, and I will undertake to get that information. The answer to the second question is no.

733 Mr DONDAS to Mr ROBERTSON

Has any expert attention been given by the Education Department to the special education problems of different ethnic groups within the community?

ANSWER

The answer is a definite yes. The Northern Territory division of the Department of Education has indeed devoted a great deal of effort to this very vexed question. I think all honourable members would recognise that in the Territory we would probably have the greatest diversity of students to cater for, or to be found anywhere in Australia. I do not think anyone could claim that the efforts of the Department of Education have been totally to the satisfaction of all. I think that, irrespective of how many additional millions we might spend on education in this country and in the Territory generally, you would never satisfy everyone. But I can certainly assure honourable members that it is a matter well in the forefront of consideration of the division.

Indeed, very recently I attended a conference of officers involved in retarded children and link languages difficulties. There is a very substantial number of teachers, particularly in primary schools, whose sole duty is devoted in the direction that is the cause of the concern of the honourable member for Casuarina. It is also an area where I know the present director is trying to make further improvements. Unfortunately, due to the attitude it seems of the senior levels of the federal department, he cannot seem to get his way to his satisfaction, certainly not to mine. It is just another one of those examples where I think local knowledge is the only solution to the problem and the sooner local knowledge is allowed to take over fully in this department, as with all departments, in the government system of state-like structure, the better.

734 Mr ISAACS to Mr ROBERTSON

Has his attention been drawn to the Galbally report which concerns, inter alia, the funding of the Good Neighbour Councils in Australia? Is he aware that the report recommends that Good Neighbour Councils should cease to receive funding from the Australian government and will he undertake to ensure that continued funding at the appropriate level is given to the Good Neighbour Council in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

The whole of the Galbally report - an excellent work by a very brilliant man - is being examined by my department. Unlike the Opposition Leader who has very little to do but run around finding matters to criticise, I have a department to administer and, needless to say, I would not have his sort of time to read this report myself in depth. My department will be condensing the report for my purposes and will no doubt be acting upon a number of its recommendations.

As to the specifics of the question, as the honourable member is aware, we are establishing an office of Ethnic Affairs and Immigration within the Department of Community Development. I have indicated to the House previously that that will be a very small unit of staff members, probably about three. In fact, that is my cabinet's approval as to its staff ceiling - the idea being that if we can keep the numbers down, we can keep the travel vote up. The necessary consequence of keeping the numbers small within that unit would, of course, mean that we are going to rely very heavily upon the services of the Good Neighbour Council in the Northern Territory - an organisation which incidently, Mr Speaker,

has my utmost respect and admiration, and subject to our priorities and funds available, I would be seeking most certainly to continue to encourage it in the good work it is doing in the Northern Territory.

735 Mr HARRIS to Mr STEELE

Is he aware of the lack of speed restriction signs on the grounds of the Darwin High School? If he is not, would he please have this matter investigated before a serious accident occurs?

Mr Isaacs: Refer it to your department.

ANSWER

Perhaps I could refer to the Opposition Leader for his suggestions and then take the matter to the department.

I think I have mentioned earlier that it is lamentable that there is no real system of signs and the fact that we have not got a lot of signs. It is under study, in cahoots with the city council. I suppose we can expect that something will transpire within the next couple of months. That is the only assurance I can give, that a report will probably come forward in the next couple of months.

736 Mr DOOLAN to Mr TUXWORTH

Is it a fact that the rural health section of the Department of Health is a total of 15 sisters short on its staff, and is it a fact that urban hospitals are getting first choice of staff to the detriment of rural nursing staff?

ANSWER

I cannot answer either of those questions but I will endeavour to get the information for the honourable member.

737 Mr DONDAS to Mr ROBERTSON

Is the executive member able to advise me if it is his intention to provide assistance for Territory teams to travel both inter-Territory and interstate for sports events? If so, when will guidelines for this assistance be made available to the various sporting organisations?

ANSWER

The executive has dealt at some length with the question of youth sport and recreation, which is in my department, and we do indeed have a policy in respect of assistance to sport in the Northern Territory. The emphasis in that policy is towards junior sport. I believe this is where our efforts should be directed. I think all honourable members will recognise that in that section of my department there is not unlimited revenue and never will be. What we must do is concentrate on the area of most need, and that applies to all the department's operations. Certainly, in the context of the honourable member's question, that area would have to be junior sport.

There are exceptions to that. Assistance will be given to members of senior sporting teams who are non-earning. A good example of that was the sponsorship by my department recently of a number of girls from Kormilda College, who were in the senior women's soccer team, for a trip to Mt Isa. Now clearly, they are not in a position, as other wage earners are, to contribute towards their own travel and interstate trips

and further, of course, are not in a position to go out fund raising, as are adults who are employed in the work place. That briefly is the principle - first emphasis on assistance to junior sport, and then assistance to seniors who are not otherwise in a position to make their own fares available.

738 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr ROBERTSON

My question concerns the Winston Churchill Fellowship Trust Fund. Can he tell me how the trustees of the fund are appointed? How long are they appointed for, and are any efforts made to make the trustees representative of the community?

ANSWER

I would ask that the question be put on notice.

739 Mr COLLINS to Mr PERRON

Is it true, as recent press reports have indicated, that the honourable executive member has attributed the failure of a viable forestry industry in the Northern Territory to the control of the Forestry Department in Canberra?

ANSWER

The failure of the forestry program in the Northern Territory, as outlined in a report made to federal parliament recently, was a result of a number of things not the least of which was, without question, the administration of the Northern Territory from a long long way back, and I stand by that remark.

740 Mr DONDAS to Mr ROBERTSON

What provisions are being made for the treatment of seriously ill prisoners upon the commencement of the new Casuarina Hospital? Is it his department's intention to request a security area for the treatment of such prisoners at the Casuarina Hospital? If not, why not?

ANSWER

The first part of the question implies that there should be some difference in treatment between a person who is a prisoner and ill and a person who is not a prisoner and is ill. Most certainly not. There is no distinction in the method of treatment and the extent of treatment between a prisoner and anyone else.

In respect of the second part of the question which seems to indicate a fear that security might be at risk in respect of these people, the position is that it is not standard practice in any hospital in Australia, other than specialist prison hospitals of which I understand there are only one or two - and, of course, that is a system used in the United States quite a bit, where there are specialist hospitals for the purpose - it is not the practice, though, in Australia to make cell-like arrangements for people seeking medical help. He did use the phrase "serious cases" and I cannot imagine a person who is seriously ill posing a threat to anyone. The arrangement is properly one between the Director of Correctional Services or the superintendent of the prison and the medical superintendent of the hospital. Security arrangements will be made, having regard to the nature of the person, his illness and his background as an offender, based on individual judgment of individual cases.

743 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr TUXWORTH

Can he give us any indication of the extent of the use of the chemicals 24D and 245T in the Northern Territory? Is any consideration being given to restricting their use in view of the fact that two states have recently placed restrictions on the use of those chemicals?

ANSWER

Last week, when this issue arose on the national scene, inquiries were carried out by the Animal Industry Branch in the Northern Territory and the Health Department as to the availability and use of the insecticides that the honourable member refers to. The response we got from the department was that these particular chemicals are in fact on the shelf in the Northern Territory, mainly in very small quantities, in 10 and 15 oz cans. They are not widely used commercially in the Northern Territory and at this stage there is no positive indication that the particular chemicals are causing any harm. Further investigations will go on to see whether there is, in fact, any reason to continue to keep a watch on the scene. We will also be watching with interest the activities on the federal scene where, in Queensland and Victoria, I believe they placed a temporary ban on these particular chemicals.

744 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

My question comes after reading a small article in "Queensland Country Life" dated 1 June 1978 in which I read that a \$1.5m project has been started to send five-months-old Sawihal Friesian heifers to Malaysia. In view of what we have heard of markets in Malaysia from our trade delegation, what encouragement is planned by the Animal Industry Branch to help local farmers to get a share of this market in young cross-bred milking cattle of exotic breed?

ANSWER

I have not seen the article to which the honourable members refers. However, I understand that Sawihal Friesian cattle are part of an established dairy industry and to my knowledge there has been no interest shown by agricultural or pastoral people in the Northern Territory in following that line of production.

745 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

I would draw his attention to a motion passed by the Australian Government Lawyers Association on 9 May 1978 in the following terms: that the branch approach the central executive of the AGLA to (1) express concern at the summary manner in which members of the association - that is the Australian Government Lawyers Association - have been transferred from the Australian Public Service to the Northern Territory Public Service, and (2) that this branch similarly express its concern at the manner in which certain former members of the Australian Public Service who have been compulsorily transferred to the Northern Territory Public Service are apparently being disregarded in consideration for appointments for positions in the Australian Public Service. The question is, has his attention been drawn to this motion and, secondly, would he examine the contents of the motion and report back to the Assembly on the results of his examination?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I have not been made aware of the contents of that motion.

In fact I have not heard of it up till the present time. It interests me in view of the fact that quite a number of senior positions have, I believe, been created in the Northern Territory Department of Law since the creation of that department. One would think there would be ample opportunity for people of ambition to achieve promotion in the Northern Territory Department of Law. However, if difficulties are being experienced by lawyers in the Northern Territory Department of Law seeking to achieve positions in the Australian Public Service - presumably those positions are decided on a basis of merit - I will take the matter up with the Public Service Commissioner here to see if anything can be ascertained from the Public Service Board of the Commonwealth. I doubt very much whether there is a great deal that the Northern Territory can do about the matter and one would think that the proper avenue for the Australian Government Lawyers Association to pursue would be through its federal body in Canberra.

746 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr PERRON

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

ANSWER

I have no detailed knowledge with me at all on the question that the honourable member has asked. It sounds like an appropriate question to be placed on notice.

747 Mr HARRIS to Mr ROBERTSON

Could he give us some indication of the present attitude of the government towards the restoration of buildings of historical significance in Port Darwin?

ANSWER

It will be, of course, common information to honourable members here that this Assembly has recently given the National Trust in the Northern Territory a standing at law. Forward estimates on behalf of that organisation are with my department. It is, of course, the intention of this party to ensure that whatever practical and economically feasible buildings worth restoring around Darwin are restored. Naturally, one's mind comes immediately to a building such as the old Admiralty House, which is - let us face it - in a very sorry state at the moment. A full report has been compiled by the director of the Northern Territory National Trust which is now with my Department and with myself for consideration. I will most certainly be taking the recommendations contained therein to the executive as soon as a detailed analysis of the report can be made. It will be necessary, of course, to get input from the Department of Construction or from the transferred areas of the Department of Construction, to get an engineering and architectural analysis of what would be necessary to get cost estimates. In light of that information, as I have already said, Mr Speaker, I will be presenting a paper to the executive for its consideration.

748 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr PERRON

Why have no approvals been notified in the Gazette since 1 January 1978 in respect of applications made pursuant to section 38A of the Town Planning Ordinance, to change the zoning of land situated in the Darwin area, despite the fact that several parties have made such applications?

ANSWER

Again, I have no detailed knowledge of the matter that the honourable member raises before the House. I ask her to place the question on notice.

749 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

I preface my question by saying I had a phone call from a desperate resident of a railway house whose hot-water system has broken down, and I am sure we feel sorry for him with this weather.

Is the executive member aware that there is no authority in Darwin presently taking responsibility for urgent minor repairs to the railway houses? I point out that the Australian National Railway office is completely closed in Darwin and the Housing Commission does not take over responsibility for these houses till 1 July.

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I am not sure of all the facts in this particular case as to who is looking after the railway houses at the present time. Somebody must be collecting rent from the tenants in them, in which case the responsibility clearly still lies with the Australian National Railways as the houses have not been handed over to the Housing Commission as yet. The amendments to the Housing Ordinance that are before the House at the present time will enable the Housing Commission to take over a management role, whilst negotiations proceed for the possible purchase of these dwellings, investing in the stocks of the Housing Commission. In the meantime, Mr Speaker, I will undertake to check with the Australian National Railways on behalf of the honourable member and establish clearly whether there is an agent of theirs of some description in town who can undertake work on these houses in the meantime.

750 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr PERRON

When might people in Darwin area who have made applications since 1 January 1978, pursuant to section 38A of the Town Planning Ordinance, expect their applications to be dealt with?

ANSWER

If the honourable member really wanted answers to some of these questions, she should have provided some forewarning or perhaps written to me to seek the information. It is quite obvious that I cannot answer questions like that just off the top of my head. Town planning is part of my portfolio, of course, but it is not the entire range of my portfolio and I cannot really be expected to know all the details of applications relating to every particular section of the Town Planning Ordinance at all times. So again, I ask the honourable member to place the question on notice.

751 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

As the North Australian railway has been closed down and the track is no longer used, would he give consideration to having this track converted into a rapid transit system for the use of people living in the rural area? If this is too big an order, then would he give consideration to making it into a bicycle track so cyclists do not have to compete with the heavy traffic on the Stuart Highway?

ANSWER

I think the idea of having a rapid transit mode of transport from the agricultural area to Darwin appeals to me. It is one that I have thought of with some joy. However, I had some preliminary discussions with people who know a bit more about this subject and we are looking at a cost of something like \$80,000 per passenger seat, and I do not think this town can afford that sort of money at this time. Talking about bicycle tracks, the town planning section and the Department of Transport and Works are looking at a plan for bicycle tracks for Darwin; I do not expect their report to be ready for another few months but, certainly, the departments are looking at it.

752 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr PERRON

Can he confirm that the chief planning officer of his planning unit is seeking legal advice on the question of how applications by certain people in respect of land situated in the Darwin area, pursuant to section 38A of the Town Planning Ordinance, should be dealt with?

ANSWER

Yes, Mr Speaker, I can confirm that question. It is not unusual at all for any government department to seek legal advice on matters it deals with from time to time, and the situation that the planning unit is in at the present time is rather complex. We have a situation where for three years the Darwin Reconstruction Commission handed out planning authorities to various people to build on land around Darwin in a rather arbitrary manner, not in accord with any particular legal plan at the time. The whole process was done administratively and has left some terrible headaches in the area of interpreting the legal status of land and buildings in Darwin at the present time. I expect this need for legal advice by the planning unit will continue for some time.

753 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr ROBERTSON

I noticed recently a sum of money was given to the "Life Be In It" program. Can he inform me if this program has had a similar impact on the people of the Territory as it has in Victoria, and how long will this program continue? Will it be an on-going program?

ANSWER

The "Life Be In It" program in the Northern Territory has been run by special grants from the Commonwealth and recently by a special grant from the Department of Community Development. As honourable members will be aware, Mr Keith Williams of the YMCA has been heading it up on our behalf on temporary secondment. Recently, in the last couple of weeks, we provided more funds to make sure that program continues to the end of this financial year.

The "Life Be In It" campaign and how to rejuvenate that campaign was the subject of a discussion by the ministers for youth, sport and recreation recently held interstate at which we were represented at officer level, though I was unable to attend personally. The ministers were quite firm in their view that the campaign's success was such that it definitely required a reinjection of funds and further than that probably a slight change of direction. It is purely coincidental - and I say that in all sincerity - that I have in front of me a detailed report from Mr Williams in relation to the "Life Be In It" program to date. I think it would probably be useful if all honourable members got a copy of this report and I would be quite happy to make it available to them.

754 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

Can he inform the Assembly yet what action is being taken with regard to pedestrian crossings and the installation of traffic lights at what is fast becoming a death trap on Trower Road in the Milner-Rapid Creek area, or is this just another one of those problems that is stored in his bulging too-hard basket?

ANSWER

Certainly, I will attempt to answer the first part of the honourable gentleman's question. I understand officers of my department were talking to the council yesterday about the possibility of the footbridge going across Trower Road in the same place as the lights. It is no great desire of mine that the footbridge go across at the same place as the pedestrian lights but it seems that is about the best location. Now, it is up to the council and the department to come to some agreement.

755 Mr COLLINS to Mr EVERINGHAM

My question concerns clause 18 of the Aboriginal Lands Bill which refers to the issuing of notices under section 12 of the proposed ordinance. Could the honourable Majority Leader tell me when such notices, in respect of fishing licences, will be issued and will fishing licences be granted in the period of time from now until then?

ANSWER

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

756 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr PERRON

Is he aware of a practice which has developed in the Housing Commission relating to the recovery of rents, which consists of a stenciled letter to tenants containing four words: "Please pay your rent"? Will he take such steps as are necessary to cease this disgusting practice?

ANSWER

I do not get all the forms that various departments or authorities associated with my office send out sent to me for approval. It would be an absurd way to attempt to run a government. However, if the honourable member - or any honourable member for that matter - feels that any government department or authority is being abrupt or perhaps even rude in the way it is handling its affairs, I think it is rightly their role to bring it to the attention of the executive member and seek that changes be made or present a case why they think this should not be the practice. In the current situation, I will ask at what stage of the rental arrears program this letter is being sent out by the Housing Commission to establish, indeed, that it is abrupt as this was the inference made by the honourable member. It is quite obvious that the tenant owes the money at the time the letter is sent.

760 Mr PERKINS to Mr TUXWORTH

Are there any plans to return the head office of the Tourist Bureau to Darwin in the near future and, if not, why not?

ANSWER

There are no plans to return the head office of the Tourist Bureau to Darwin in the near future. I believe there are no valid reasons why the Tourist Bureau should be in Darwin, rather than in any other place. I would accept the fact that the bureau's headquarters were previously situated in Darwin and were forced out as a result of the cyclone. The effectiveness of the Northern Territory Government Tourist Bureau, as a unit, has not been depleted at all by its move to Alice Springs. In fact, it has probably assisted inside the industry itself in that the decentralisation has given the industry an indication that the whole of the government structure is not bound with the Darwin mentality.

It is my understanding that the push to have the Tourist Bureau resited in Darwin has come from a small group of Darwin people who believe that the bureau's only function has been to promote tourism in Alice Springs. I would totally reject that proposal and concept. The board itself is made up of people from all over the Territory, from all facets of the industry. When these people sit down around the table, their charter is to promote the introduction of tourists into the total scene of the Northern Territory and I believe they do this well.

761 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr TUXWORTH

Why is the Northern Territory Tourist Bureau establishing an office in Cairns?

ANSWER

The Northern Territory Government Tourist Bureau is not only establishing an office in Cairns; it is also establishing an office in Brisbane, and there are very pertinent reasons for the establishment of these two offices. Honourable members on the other side of the House may not be aware of the various markets that are open to the Northern Territory for development. The establishment of these two offices is to get a greater intrusion of the Northern Territory in the market place.

The Cairns market has a predominant attraction for the Alice Springs area in that Cairns attracts a great number of American tourists and it has a direct air jet link with Alice Springs. The Alice Springs people find it particularly easy to attract the Americans to Alice Springs and the Ayers Rock region, and it is for this reason that an agency operation is being established by the Northern Territory Tourist Bureau to enable it to service industry promotion and travel agent operators in the Cairns region.

I would like to bring to the notice of honourable members the fact that it is only three or four years ago that Connair established a fortnightly air service to Cairns with a Heron. This was subsequently brought to a weekly run and then it was upgraded to a fortnightly DC3 and then a weekly DC3; then we moved into Fokker Friendships and we are now into DC9s. We started off fortnightly with Herons and now we are into DC9s weekly. This is the sort of development that comes from aggressive promotion and the board feels that it can develop the market much more satisfactorily if it has a branch or an agency in the area to promote the Northern Territory and to increase the Northern Territory share of the Cairns market.

In relation to the second part of the question concerning the Brisbane office, for the benefit of the honourable member, Brisbane is developing as the centre for organised bus tours throughout Australia. The actual reason for this development I could not give to the honourable members but the reality is, if the Northern Territory wants to get a bigger share of the bus camping tours into the Northern Territory, then we have to get out and supply the industry with the information it wants and back up the industry so that they are interested and are aware that there are opportunities for them in the Northern Territory. This is the reason that the Brisbane office is going to be opened.

762 Mr PERKINS to Mr TUXWORTH

Will he advise who actually made the decision to establish the Tourist Bureau office in Cairns?

ANSWER

The answer is that it was an executive decision.

763 Mr HARRIS to Mr PERRON

Who is responsible for the old Flagstaff House area on Myilly Point and could he please indicate if there are any future plans for that area?

ANSWER

I understand - and I will have this information checked - that the old Flagstaff House area is still actually defence land but, if I recall correctly, it is zoned under the proposed town plan as open space which I am sure most honourable members would accept is a far more desirable use than a defence facility, being one of the few very significant lookout points around the foreshores of Darwin. However, I will undertake to clarify what the situation is and whether there have been any approaches to the Defence Department to relinquish that land, and will supply it to the honourable member.

764 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr TUXWORTH

Can he advise the Assembly on the volume of traffic to the Northern Territory that is likely to be generated by the Tourist Bureau office in Cairns?

ANSWER

Subsequent to the remarks I just made, I could only advise the honourable member that I would have to go back and get figures from the Tourist Board on the market projection available to us as a result of opening the office in Cairns.

765 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

Can the honourable executive member tell me if some market research will be done after 1 July by the horticultural officers of AIB to find markets down south for our northern tropical flowers?

ANSWER

It is a bit hard to say just what market research will be undertaken by the Primary Industry Branch. I understand that at the present time there is only one officer engaged on horticultural activities and, of course, whether more people are recruited into that sphere of activity depends on

the competing priorities at the time. No doubt we will have to assess just what all the officers are doing and whether we can afford to create new positions to undertake extra horticultural marketing activity.

766 Mr ISAACS to Mr TUXWORTH

I refer him to page 6 of the recent Tourist Board report, which said:

The Board realises that future promotional marketing programs and development activities can only be based on continual research.

In light of that statement can the executive member advise the Assembly why, in 1977-1978, the board's proposed increased expenditure on administration is 60%, whereas increased expenditure budgeted for development and research is only 5%?

ANSWER

I do not have the actual figures in front of me but, I would pose to the honourable Leader of the Opposition the suggestion that 5% of the promotion budget is a lot of money - a lot more money in proportion than the administration budget. One of the realities that has flowed from the increase by the board in recent years in its promotion and development expenditure is that this expenditure has generated in return a lot of office work for the people in the bureau. This is exactly what the whole thing is all about.

The bureau's functions are not particularly to sit in an office and sell tickets to people across a counter. It is to service the industry, anybody within the industry or the consumer, with any information that it needs about the Northern Territory. In recent years, in fact over the last 18 months, the board has increased its expenditure on advertising promotion and market development very considerably. It is only now that the administration side of the organisation, which has been depleted, is starting to catch up with the work-load that has been generated by the additional advertising. If the honourable member feels that these figures are out of proportion or out of kilter and would like a specific explanation for it, I would seek to supply this information to him.

767 Mr DONDAS to Mr TUXWORTH

In what other states does the Northern Territory Tourist Bureau operate? Are those operations successful?

ANSWER

The Tourist Bureau has offices in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and I believe it hopes to open an office in Perth in 1980-1981. I might stand to be corrected on that but there is an intention by the board to open a Perth office. I could only say, Mr Speaker, that the results from the Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne offices in the last twelve months have been extremely satisfactory. I believe the amount of work that has been channelled through these offices is a direct result of the additional programming, advertising and promotion that has gone on within these cities.

In Sydney, for instance, the office of the Tourist Bureau has been moved from the ground floor to the tenth floor and it has channelled its activities from the individual consumer to supporting the wholesale market in tourism, particularly bus and airline companies that run direct packages to the Northern Territory.

In Adelaide, the board embarked on a program last year of television advertising. It is the first time the Northern Territory Government Tourist Bureau has had funds to get into television advertising and the response to the office in Adelaide was such that the office staff had no hope of handling the amount of work and inquiries that the advertising generated.

In Melbourne, the activities of the bureau, led by a very active state manager, have increased dramatically and I believe it is probably due more to the individual efforts of the team in the Melbourne office than any other factor that the amount of business through the Melbourne office has increased. Off the top of my head, I think the increase in the Melbourne office between 1975-1976 and 1976-1977 was something like 60%.

768 Mr PERKINS to Mr TUXWORTH

Is he aware that in the recent report to the Tourist Board there was an indication of a considerable participation by the staff, in particular the director and the assistant director, in travel within Australia and overseas? I would like to know what amount of time was spent away from head office by both individuals. What was the cost of this travel, what amount of the travel allowance was paid to these officers during the year and also what are the comparative figures for the current year?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I think it is only reasonable that the finer details of the question be placed on notice. Before I sit down, I would like to pass a comment for the benefit of the honourable deputy leader of the Opposition. It is this: the activities of the senior personnel in the Tourist Bureau so far as national and international promotion are concerned are very important. We have discussed in this House before the need for the Northern Territory to get off its tail, to get out and sell itself - with the beef as one particular industry, as members are well aware, and with tourism. If the Northern Territory wishes to benefit from the advent of overseas tourists into the Northern Territory, then it has to get out into these markets and start selling. You do not win any prizes or get any sales by stopping home and saying you could not afford to go or you did not have the time or it did not interest you. The senior personnel of the board have been encouraged for several years to start participating in Southeast Asian and Asian tourist conferences and start getting the Northern Territory's flag into these markets as a fore-runner to the possible establishment of Northern Territory offices in these regions. I believe this is the only answer.

769 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr ROBERTSON

I asked several questions earlier this session relating to whether or not he had approved the expenditure of \$220,000 by the Darwin city council for the acquisition of the block of land adjacent to the Travelodge. He said he did not know under what section of the ordinance his approval was required or his officers could not find it. Well, it is section 210, which gives details of how the council shall expend the money. It says in subsection (2) that "except with the prior approval of the Executive Member, a council shall not in any year" so spend its revenue, and it goes on to mention items not in the estimates.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! What is the question?

Mrs LAWRIE: The question is, has he given approval for this expenditure of \$220,000 and can he indicate from what source available to the council the money will be paid?

ANSWER

The question the member asked previously, Mr Speaker, as you and all members would be aware, was whether I had approved the purchase; that was one part of it and the other part was - if not, why wasn't there a poll of ratepayers? Now my answer to that question was, firstly, it is not for me to approve whether or not they purchase real property; that is within their own charter. Secondly, there is nothing I can find within the ordinance that requires a poll of ratepayers.

As to the facts behind this matter, I think it is appropriate that I give members some information. The city corporation hopes to purchase this block of land for \$220,000, as the honourable member says, as part of a loan application to be approved by myself as a Loan Council loan. It is part of a global figure they have requested from the Loan Council of \$1,690,353. There is a proportion within that application of \$594,777 which is under the head of various building projects. The fact of the matter is, Mr Speaker, that I have given no approval whatsoever for this loan application to the Loan Council. So how the city council proposes to pay it, if that approval is not given, I do not know. It certainly seeks to pre-empt what I might do as an executive member.

The history behind the matter is that an application has been put up, as a tentative application, to the Loan Council so that it can fit that application within its Australian global figures, and the Loan Council has provisionally approved of the application to it for that sum of money. It is now necessary for a formal application to go through my office, through my department and myself, for approval and then final formal approval by the Loan Council. The significant thing is that, if the city corporation intends purchasing that land from those funds, then I think they have acted rather foolishly because those funds are not available; no approval has been given for those funds. The matter will be looked at by my department and myself, depending on its merit, when the proper application is made to us.

I can now start to see the concern of the honourable member for Night-cliff. I also think Mr Speaker, if I may take the time of the House for just another moment, the council will have to be aware of two other things. When it puts up an application for loan funds for my approval under the ordinance, it must bear in mind that that approval is also going to be interdependent on the overall loan borrowing requirements of the whole of the Northern Territory. It is not sufficient to take each loan application in isolation. The whole of the Territory's loan borrowing requirements have to be put to the Loan Council and if we approve too much in one sector, the Loan Council may approve that and we will find that we are out of quota in respect of our other priorities. The second thing the council must look at, when it goes buying real estate of this nature, is that the program for whatever they intend to build on that real estate should be cleared by the executive of this government for the simple reason that it will inevitably involve an application for a dollar-for-dollar subsidy in respect of the capital works and, worse still, a dollar-for-dollar subsidy funding in respect of the operational deficits. It is not quite that simple, where you go along and enter into a contract for \$220,000 and then announce to the press that you are going to build a \$3.5m building. It is just a little bit more complicated than that.

770 Mr OLIVER to Mr STEELE

When is the eastern approach to the new Todd River bridge due for completion?

ANSWER

The present project allows for sealed access to Khalick Street but on the actual timing I think it is due for completion somewhere around the third week in August.

771 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

My question refers to an answer he gave this Assembly yesterday. Given the discussions that were to take place between his department and the city council on Tuesday and Wednesday about the Trower Road traffic lights and overhead footbridge, can the executive member inform the Assembly of the outcome of those discussions?

ANSWER

I will try and get the answer for the honourable gentleman and give it to him later in the day.

772 Mr PERKINS to Mr TUXWORTH

Is he aware that the recent report of the Tourist Board shows that there are alleged rises in sales at the various offices of the bureau? I would like to know how much of these increases are due to the inflated costs of travel and how much are due to a real increase in the number of visitors to the Territory, as the figures indicate? I would also like to know, what evidence is there of an increase in the number of visitors to the Territory?

ANSWER

I think some parts of that question should be placed on notice for scrutiny and reply by the bureau itself. But I do detect in the honourable member's questioning a concern or even a doubt that the Tourist Board is in fact performing a function of worth. I would just like to reiterate, Mr Speaker, that if the honourable member wants to ascertain whether there has been any direct benefit to the Northern Territory in terms of tourist numbers, he walk up and down the main street of any town in the Northern Territory and ask the people who service the industry. If he is still in any doubt after he has spoken to them, perhaps the honourable member is of a mind that he does not want to believe there has been any increase in tourism in the Northern Territory.

It is very difficult to be able to say how much business has been derived from a particular program of promotion or whatever, but if I could give the honourable member an example of the benefits that flow to a specific program, I might mention the program that was established in his own home town, Alice Springs, where the local Tourist Promotion Association there, in concert with the bureau and one of the airlines, started the program of "See Alice while she is hot". The purpose of this exercise was to try and induce southern travellers, who for the most part make their movements during the summer months of the year, to visit the Northern Territory during a period that is particularly quiet. My understanding from the industry is that there were some 65 packages initiated as a result of that promotion and that the additional trade to the town of Alice Springs during the months of October, November, December and January was very encouraging. It is a program that will be continued over the years until such a time that the tourist industry in Alice Springs is not just a six months industry but a twelve months industry, attracting people for various reasons other than coming north during the winter when it is a bit cold down south.

773 Mr COLLINS to Mr TUXWORTH

My question concerns stage 2 of the restoration program at Rum Jungle which was supposed to have begun in April-May this year. Why has this not begun and when will it begin?

ANSWER

I am just trying to recollect some knowledge that I have on this. I believe this particular restoration program is being done on an agency basis by the Mines Branch for and on behalf of the Atomic Energy Commission and the actual contractor is the Department of Works. I am aware that an amount of some \$340,000 had been allocated, before Christmas I understand, for this work to continue. If, as the honourable member says, the work is not in progress and has not been completed, I will undertake to ascertain the reason for it and supply it to him later in this sitting.

774 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr ROBERTSON

Can he obtain for me the number of students from the Nhulunbuy area receiving isolated schools educational allowance and or special allowances, and also the number of students receiving tertiary education allowances and Aboriginal students receiving educational allowances?

ANSWER

Obviously, the question is going to take quite a bit of research by the Department of Education. I will ask them to carry out that research.

775 Mr DOOLAN to Mr ROBERTSON

Can he yet supply an answer to my question asked earlier in these sittings regarding the lack of telephone communication available at Berry Springs school?

ANSWER

I must apologise to the honourable member for Victoria River. The answer has not come back to my office as yet; I will make sure it is speeded up.

776 Mr HARRIS to Mr ROBERTSON

Are rates paid on land within the municipality of Darwin where a subdivision has not been handed over to the corporation and, if so, who receives these rates?

ANSWER

It looks like it is not my day; that is two straight that I do not have an answer for. I will seek that information and provide it later today.

777 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr ROBERTSON

Is he aware - this is on the same subject, the same block of land adjacent to the Travelodge - is he aware that the Valuer-General has placed a valuation on that block of \$200,000 not \$220,000?

ANSWER

While I might have said \$220,000, it is my understanding that the sale

price is \$120,000.

Mrs Lawrie: I am sorry, the Valuer-General's valuation is \$100,000 not \$200,000.

Mr ROBERTSON: While I cannot answer the question with a yes or no, I think it is important for honourable members to bear in mind that the market value of real property is not the value set by a valuer. It is the price that people are prepared to pay for it. I would think for a block of that nature, with a valuation of \$100,000, it would not be unreasonable to pay \$120,000 if that was the price necessary to secure it. I am not defending the purchase by any means. I am simply pointing out the general principle in the purchase of real property; it is not unreasonable for there to be a shift in value of that small a percentage during the negotiations.

778 Mr PERKINS to Mr TUXWORTH

Will he advise what are the criteria which are used by the CLP executive in the selection of members of the Tourist Board in the Territory?

ANSWER

Yes, I can advise him. The executive decided some three to four years ago that there was a need to revamp the method for the selection of people appointed to the Northern Territory Tourist Board, to get away from the polarisation that had developed within the board itself of being centred around two communities. Tourism is a total community exercise and I believe, and I know my executive agrees, that the board should be composed of people drawn from throughout the Northern Territory and people who have a background in the tourist industry, in one facet or another, to enable them to contribute to the workings of the bureau.

We have also made an effort in the selection of candidates to have at least one Aboriginal member on the board because, although it is going to take time, I believe it is important that Aboriginals play a definite role in tourism as it develops over the years. While they are not particularly involved in the industry at the moment, I believe this involvement will come. One exercise that we could be involved in, as an executive, would be to include an Aboriginal on the board so that they could gain an understanding of the industry and the industry could benefit from the understanding of the Aboriginal member.

I think, if we look at the individual board members over the past two or three years, we will find that we have, without any doubt, provided members from all the communities in the Northern Territory - people from all walks of life and people who have an expertise in some facet of the industry. If the honourable member feels there are people on the board who do not fit into these categories, perhaps he could mention the people to me.

779 Mr COLLINS to Mr TUXWORTH

My question concerns a question I asked at the beginning of the last sittings, No. 613. The question is, can I have an undertaking from the honourable executive member to get an answer to that question this sittings? The question, to refresh his memory was: is it true that the honourable member has had a personal communication from the personal secretary to the honourable Executive Member for the Treasury, on the honourable member's headed paper, for assistance in obtaining a licence to keep in his personal possession the northern rosella and honey-eater?

Is it true that this person had previously been refused a licence by the department and does the honourable member intend to accede to his request?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, perhaps there is some sort of blockage in the system but I would almost be prepared to bet my money that that answer has been sent through the channels. In fact, I have seen it and if it has not got to the honourable member, I will endeavour to get it to him today.

780 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr STEELE

What investigations, if any, relating to the rescheduling and rerouting of the Darwin public bus services are being undertaken by his department?

ANSWER

As the honourable member is aware, the department comes into being officially on 1 July. It is a forward plan of the executive to study the costs and the methods and management features of the bus service. It has been a thorn in the side for quite a long time and certainly alternative routes will be looked at when that study can be commenced.

781 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Can he seek from the Government Printer priority on Legislative Assembly printing work so that, for example, the notice paper is available on time for members of the Assembly and, more importantly, Hansard is available to the public earlier?

ANSWER

I hear a suggestion that this question should not be directed to me. I believe, in fact, that the Government Printer falls within the responsibility of the Executive Member for Industrial Development. I know nothing of what priorities the Government Printer has been given. I am sure my colleague, the executive member concerned, and I will look into the matter so that something can be done. I personally have not noticed a lack of notice papers. Quite often they are available the evening before - yesterday was one occasion, but one swallow does not make a summer and I think there are breakdowns from time to time in every system. We will speak to the Clerk and to the Government Printer with a view to streamlining matters. I believe the situation will probably improve greatly when the Government Printer is installed, with his new equipment and his additional staff, in his fine new premises on the Stuart Highway. I believe he will then be able to do a better job here in the Northern Territory than most government printing offices around Australia can do.

782 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr STEELE

In view of his statement in this Assembly last week that he could find jobs for 40 people, will he undertake to find jobs for two unemployed residents in my electorate who approached me yesterday for help in finding employment?

ANSWER

I would not accuse the honourable member of being a liar because that is unparliamentary but no way did I say that I could find jobs for 40 people. I did say that if the honourable member for Millner would

recommend people to me, I would try to find them employment but no way did I say I would find jobs for 40 people. I am not trying to split hairs.

The other thing is, if the member for Fannie Bay wants to produce the names and not just beat around the bush, we will see what we can do. But, bear in mind, Mr Speaker, I have had a fair bit of experience in finding jobs for people and I have found that I can get a job in two hours for almost any person, providing they accept it. That is by sitting down at the phone and ringing up everybody I know.

783 Mr COLLINS to Mr PERRON

My question concerns a press release of his which was issued on 7 June on which I have asked him a question previously in these sittings. There are two parts that are relevant. One is that the executive member was commenting on a report released by the federal government Standing Committee on Expenditure. The other part was that the member said that the real victims of the sorry saga were Territorians who has missed the chance of participating in a viable forestry industry. The honourable executive member's answer to my question the other day was that he stood by the remarks he made about remote control being responsible for this. My question now is: Had the honourable executive member read the report before he issued his press release and if he had read the report, did he note that the major aspects of it that were discussed, as far as the failure of the industry were concerned, were ecological and local administration, rather than political?

Mr SPEAKER: Before directing the question to the honourable Executive Member for Finance and Planning, I request members to keep their adjournment speeches for later in the day.

ANSWER

I can assure the honourable member that I did read the report that he refers to, which was tabled in the federal parliament, before issuing a press statement. To demonstrate again that it was the remote control that caused those failures, I would say that it could not happen if the Territory was under control through this Assembly. There is obviously no way that we would let a program run on for 20 years and consume \$30m, sit here idly and let it carry on in that fashion, without reviewing progress reports on such a program to see whether the taxpayers' money was being spent wisely. So I reiterate that the result could have been prevented had the Territory had control of the affairs of forestry.

784 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr ROBERTSON

I am merely asking if, in the adjournment, the member can supply additional information to his reply concerning the proposed acquisition of the block adjacent to the Travelodge. I am asking if he can verify that the documents for the purchase of this block, were signed and sealed two weeks ago and that the money was to have come from the council's budget for 1977-1978. I had assumed that this would require his approval. Now, there is obviously confusion between the answer he gave ...

Mr SPEAKER: Order! What is the question?

Mrs LAWRIE: I am asking if he can supply further information in the adjournment.

ANSWER

I will attempt to have further information for the honourable member but her information is not quite congruent with mine.

785 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

In view of the excellent reference just given by the executive member for himself, will he now give to the Executive Member for Industrial Development the further responsibility of Minister for Employment?

ANSWER

Well, I hardly consider a question of that nature worth answering but the Executive Member for Industrial Development already has certain responsibility in the labour and industrial fields. The matter of industrial relations is my area but the executive member, I think, has quite a scope for movement in the industrial area. If he chooses to set himself up as an employment bureau, I think he is doing the community a service.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Mr TUXWORTH: Mr Speaker, I must apologise that I did not answer some of these questions yesterday but the honourable member for Arnhem threatened to shoot anybody who got up in the adjournment last night. I was not prepared to take the chance.

724 The honourable member for Nightcliff asked on Tuesday: what was the intake of student nurses and how many applicants were received from the Northern Territory, what was the total number of applicants, what was the number of successful applicants from the Northern Territory and what was the number of successful applicants from other places?

There were 14 applicants from the Northern Territory with a total number of 560 applicants altogether. There were six successful applicants from the Northern Territory and four successful applicants from other places.

736 The honourable member for Victoria River asked if it is a fact that the rural health section is 15 sisters short in staff and is it a fact that the rural section suffers because of preference in the allocation of staff to urban areas?

The answer supplied to me, Mr Speaker, by the Health Department is as follows:

The combined strength of the Community Health Service, which is not divided into rural and urban, is 273 plus 22 part-time personnel. It is true that the rural service is 15 short due to a multiplicity of causes, not the least of which is the difficulty of getting sisters to reside in rural areas because of prevailing lawlessness. However, priority is in fact given to rural areas.

732 The honourable member for Nightcliff also asked, who pays the fares of the southern applicants who fly up to Darwin for an interview for the nursing school at the Darwin Hospital?

Student nurses are not usually flown to Darwin for interview and the public service inspector's permission would be needed for this to be done. No student nurses have been flown to Darwin for interview during the past year. No requests have been made to the public service inspector for this purpose and no permissions have been given.

- 726 The honourable member for Fannie Bay raised a question concerning ward 4: Where will patients go when ward 4 is used for its planned purpose?

Ward 4 was reopened recently to cater for boarder mothers. This is not strictly a hospital function but the nursing demands from this section of people is low and the director is confident that to provide such a service, for reasonably small groups, presents no great difficulty.

- 722 The honourable member for Victoria River also raised a question concerning the rural health sister at Timber Creek.

The answer is that, although the new health centre at Timber Creek is completed, the department is not in a position to staff and occupy it or provide a mobile service to the area. However, the aerial medical service continues to service Timber Creek regularly. The answer goes on to say that the Health Department is unaware of any imminent staff shortage at Wave Hill settlement and as Wave Hill is a busy settlement considerable priority would be given to maintaining this operation.

- 675 Mr PERRON: The honourable member for Sanderson sought information on which building was stone required for in a recent advertisement in the paper, seeking consent to quarry some stone near Darwin.

My office has had some difficulty in tracking this down - just trying to get hold of the people involved - but as far as it can be established, the stone is required for a private dwelling in Darwin.

- 749 The honourable member for Fannie Bay sought information in relation to the administration of railway houses at Parap.

Australian National Railways have advised that prior to closing their office in Darwin all tenants were advised that in future rent payments and complaints were to be addressed to ANR's Adelaide office. Mr Speaker, I confirm that this is a most unsatisfactory arrangement. The procedure then is that Adelaide phones an order number to a local business capable of carrying out necessary repairs.

In the case of the hot-water system mentioned by the honourable member, this work is being carried out by a local plumbing firm who discovered that the problem was a leaking storage tank in the solar hot-water service. There are no such tanks available in Darwin and this has been ordered through another firm. Expected delivery time is three weeks and the plumbing company claim that it will be installed within two days of arrival.

I am pleased to announce that after 1 July it is anticipated, pending agreement, that the administration of all these houses will come under the control of the Housing Commission as agents for the Australian National Railways and we can then expect a more satisfactory service for these people.

796 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr ROBERTSON

I refer to my question No. 566 of 11 May regarding homemaker services, to which the member said in reply: "I will undertake to make a detailed statement during the course of the June sittings on our proposals". Can the Assembly expect a statement today?

ANSWER

I quite clearly recall undertaking to make a statement on homemaker services. The honourable Executive Member for the Treasury made some comments relating to the matter yesterday. The difficulty has been in coming to full agreement between the various units of administration and government which are involved in this exercise. The reason why I cannot make a definitive statement during these sittings - for that I apologise - is that the matters are tied in with an agreement between the Northern Territory Housing Commission, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the Department of Community Development. Discussions are now at a stage where I think we have reached virtual agreement all round on the matter. It is just a matter of putting the nuts and bolts of the issue together.

There is work going on in Alice Springs right at this moment, and a woman has been appointed to undertake this function and to do exploratory work in the area. She has provided my department with a very comprehensive and useful report on the activities of homemaker services as she sees them operating in Alice Springs. Indeed, she has gone to a lot of trouble in talking to various groups who are involved in the area, including Legal Aid, Central Australia Aboriginal Congress and other community based organisations in Alice Springs. Her work is extremely valuable to us and the only thing that I can say positively is that the program will be going ahead.

797 Mr HARRIS to Mr ROBERTSON

Following on from the question previously raised in this House by the honourable member for Nightcliff, I would like to ask: does the executive member intend making a statement on the sequence of events which led up to the loan application and the purchase of the block of land by the Corporation of the City of Darwin?

ANSWER

The statement I intended making was, in fact, a report on the time sequence of the matter and the events as the Darwin City Corporation saw them. I think it would only be fair for the city corporation side of the matter to be made known in this Chamber. They have had no chance, of course, to defend themselves whatsoever to date. I am expecting that statement will be provided by Her Worship the Mayor during this morning. By leave of the House, when it is available and at a convenient time, I would try to have that statement made available by reading it out to honourable members.

Mr Speaker, let us try and get this matter into some perspective. The ABC news this morning, I understand, implied that I said it would be foolish of the city corporation to buy the house. I made no such statement nor do I think it is. The previous Northern Territory executive and the then executive member responsible for local government, Mr Perron, had in fact indicated in a letter to the mayor that the Northern Territory executive supported in principle the proposal, and I have done so in this place myself. I have never questioned the actual merit or otherwise of the purchase. What I have questioned is the wisdom of going ahead with a purchase when the purchase price is to be paid out of loan funds

without formal approval for that specific item, from both myself and, more importantly, the Commonwealth Loan Council. That is what I am concerned about.

The whole thing from there seems to have got, as I say, somewhat out of proportion. Of course, it is exacerbated when a letter, over the signature of the town clerk, comes into the hands of the honourable member for Nightcliff and, from the copy she read, he uses words like "the decrease in the value from that previously mentioned has resulted from the depressed nature of economic activity in the city". Let us look at that one, if we may. This officer is supposed to be the most senior municipal officer in the Northern Territory. He is, in fact, the clerk of the capital city of the Northern Territory and he puts in a document, which he must have known would become public - it would be quite naive to believe that type of letter would for all time remain secret; he must have known it would become public - here we have an officer of that level talking down his own capital city in negotiations with a major national company. Further, we have this person who is expected to work with the executive making statements that not only has he no confidence in his own city, he has no confidence in his government either. And yet this person expects, do you mind, that that government is to have confidence in him. Mr Speaker, it is a most unfortunate letter to say the least. I hope to provide the actual history behind the matter for honourable members later today.

798 Mr VALE to Mr STEELE

My question relates to yesterday's announcement by the Prime Minister, in consultation with the state premiers, concerning an inquiry into the cattle industry. The question is, will the executive member move to ensure that the Northern Territory is also covered by that inquiry which, I believe, is designed to ensure that cattlemen and consumers receive and pay a fair price?

ANSWER

I am quite happy to support such a proposition. Just speaking briefly about the industry, it must have brought a smile to your face, Sir, to read yesterday that an Indiana bullock went for \$400. This has not been the case for quite some years. But just a note of caution to cattlemen: they would not want to exercise short memories in regard to beef prices. You will recall that beef prices went up to 48c a pound in Katherine in 1973 and it would be illusory to think that this particular short-term boom would be any more than a short-term boom. If I were a cattleman today, I would be expecting to put some of my money back into repaying some of those huge debts.

799 Mr ISAACS to Mr STEELE

Can he inform the House what will happen to the ESU workshops in Bishop Street when all the Electricity Supply staff move to the railway workshops?

ANSWER

I do not have a reply for the honourable member. I will try to obtain the answer for him later today.

800 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr ROBERTSON

Will he undertake to review the prison regulation which prevents prisoners from writing more than one letter per week?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I assume the reference is to letters to families. There is no restriction on the number of letters to people expressly authorised under the regulations, such as members of parliament and the minister. But the answer to the question is yes, certainly.

801 Mr COLLINS to Mr PERRON

My question concerns the House of Representatives' report on the forestry program in the Northern Territory. Does the Northern Territory government intend to implement all or any of the nine major recommendations of the report? Would the Northern Territory government consider the formation of a house committee, co-opting if necessary people who were on that House of Representatives' committee, to study the full ramifications of this report and its effect on the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

I ask that the honourable member place the substantive part of that question on notice. Could I just make some comment on the last part of the question he put to me: the suggestion of co-opting federal members to a committee to review policy of the government in the Northern Territory - and departmental policy at that - I find somewhat unacceptable.

802 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr ROBERTSON

What is the position regarding the moving in of the front fence of the Howard Springs school to give safer conditions for the school children to board and alight from school buses and the buses to turn around safely?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I understand the problem at the Howard Springs school is a short-term one. There are works in hand, or works will be undertaken, to overcome the problem by shifting the access area. I am aware of the honourable member's concern that children alighting from buses should be able to do so in an area off the road. It is a matter which the Department of Education, no doubt, has on board and is examining as a short-term measure until the problem is solved by correct planning. It is a matter also which I will take up further with the director to see if something can be done in the interim.

803 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr PERRON

I refer to a notice that has been appearing in the public notices column of the Northern Territory News, in which a delegate of the Administrator has applied for consent to quarry section 119 of the Hundred of Bagot for the purpose of extracting stone to reface one dwelling in view of his advice yesterday that the building is a private dwelling, why is section 71 of the Town Planning Ordinance being invoked as that section relates to the use of crown land by the Crown in contravention of a town planning scheme? Further, why is the delegator applying for consent to quarry when the land covered by the town planning scheme is, in fact, a mining reserve? Who is the registered proprietor of the land on which the dwelling is situated and who is the proposed occupant of that building?

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable member, while the Executive Member for the Treasury may reply, it seems to me that a question like that should go on notice.

ANSWER

I ask that the question be placed on notice.

804 Mr HARRIS to Mr TUXWORTH

When rehabilitation centres are established, what consideration is to be given to their location and will residents living in these areas be given the opportunity to comment?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I assume the honourable member is referring to alcohol and drug rehabilitation centres that are currently being sponsored by community groups throughout the Darwin scene. I would envisage that after January some of these facilities will become a part of an integrated approach sponsored by the Health Department towards rehabilitation. As for the actual siting of the premises throughout the community, I think this would be an important facet of the success of any such facility. I would imagine that before a facility was established anywhere, it would be done with the cooperation of the immediate neighbours and community.

805 Mr ISAACS to Mr TUXWORTH

Can the executive member inform the Assembly if Nabalco Pty Ltd was informed of the change to the ordinance incorporating the mining agreement?

ANSWER

I cannot say whether Nabalco was informed prior to the tabling of the papers in this House but they are most certainly aware of it and they have not registered any displeasure or concern over it with me.

806 Mr BALLANTYNE to Mr EVERINGHAM

Can he inform me when an announcement will be made regarding the position of a new police commissioner?

ANSWER

The short answer is no, I cannot inform the honourable member when an announcement will be made in respect of the appointment of a new police commissioner but I can provide the House with some details of what is happening. A considerable number of applications were received from Australia and overseas and, of course, quite a few from the Northern Territory itself. All local applicants have now been interviewed by the panel of interviewers established, I understand, by the Public Service Commissioner for this purpose and the interview panel will now be interviewing other applicants in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, I think it is, and perhaps Brisbane during the course of next week. I would anticipate that the Public Service Commissioner and his panel will probably make a recommendation a few weeks after that.

807 Mr COLLINS to Mr TUXWORTH

My question is in connection with a public meeting that was held at Howard Springs school last night. Is it true that the honourable executive member gave the meeting an assurance that he would recommend to the executive that Urangesellschaft re-apply to the new Northern Territory government for its exploration licence and, further to that, did he also give the meeting an assurance that, should this happen, the honour-

able executive member would recommend to the executive that such an application be refused?

ANSWER

I believe the member may be putting words into my mouth. My understanding of the undertaking I gave to the meeting last night was that I believed the whole situation in the area was unsatisfactory and that to some degree it had come about by default, and that it is my opinion that the company should be asked to reconsider its application and re-apply; and as of 1 July when that function becomes the responsibility of this executive, this executive will undertake to approach it on that course. I hope that answers it to the satisfaction of the honourable member.

808 Mrs LAWRIE to Mr EVERINGHAM

As he is aware, the chairman of the trustees of the Cyclone Tracy Relief Trust Fund is the Minister for the Northern Territory. Who will be chairman following 1 July, and what will be the legal status of the fund?

ANSWER

Legally, the chairman of the trustees is the Minister for the Northern Territory. Unfortunately, he has not been able to attend a meeting for some months now and in his absence various people, including myself, have been elected by the trustees to act as chairman of meetings. As I understand it, the position of Minister for the Northern Territory will actually continue until approximately the end of October this year; so I would hope by that time the matter may well have been wound up. I am seeking information from the Deputy Crown Solicitor every week or so as to the position and I understand that the matter was to have or had come before the chief judge. Perhaps, I can furnish the honourable member for Nightcliff with some additional information if she would like to contact me during the course of the first couple of days of next week.

809 Mrs PADGHAM-PURICH to Mr STEELE

Is he aware that there are one or two species of cultivated mushrooms that can be grown in the tropics with very little capital cost and that there would be potential markets to the north and in the south for these products? What is the Agricultural Branch doing about his?

ANSWER

I do not think the Agricultural Branch has been in a position to do very much about mushrooms in the Northern Territory. I think they recognise there is a potential, but not unlike the question the honourable member asked of me yesterday in respect of horticulture, I think they are virtually in the same position where it is a matter of priorities and a matter of certain officers doing certain agricultural studies, and they have not got onto mushrooms. That is about all I can say about it.

810 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

I refer him to an advertisement in the NT News of Tuesday 13 June, for an application for consent use under section 38B of the Town Planning Ordinance in the name of Chrisp, Devries and Associates. Can the executive member assure us that, if that application does not succeed and the matter becomes subject to an appeal under the Town Planning Ordinance, Mr Chrisp will not take any part in determining that appeal?

ANSWER

The answer to that question is yes.

811 Ms D'ROZARIO to Mr EVERINGHAM

Did he see a letter in Wednesday's issue of the Northern Territory News in which the writer, Dr Hills, a veterinary surgeon in private practice, said she had provided him with a paper containing proposals for dealing with the stray dog problem? Can he confirm that he did receive such a paper and, if he did, will he undertake to circulate copies among interested members of this Assembly?

ANSWER

I have not seen the letter to the editor of the NT News. I rarely bother to read them, to be quite frank, and therefore I cannot assist the honourable member. I will ask if such a letter has been received and, if it has, I will certainly circulate it. I think probably what has happened is that, if it has been addressed to me, it has been directed to the responsible executive member because I believe that is the correct procedure to adopt.

812 Mrs O'NEIL to Mr PERRON

When can we expect a decision on a site for a performing arts complex?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I cannot give a precise date when a decision will be made on a site for a performing arts complex. I presume the honourable member is referring to Darwin. This matter is under consideration and when sufficient information is available on the matter, a decision will be made and the House will be advised.

813 Mr ISAACS to Mr EVERINGHAM

Can the Majority Leader inform the Assembly if Mr Harold Salisbury, the former Police Commissioner for South Australia, is an applicant for the Police Commissioner's job in the Northern Territory?

ANSWER

Mr Speaker, I could inform the Assembly, but I will not.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

717 Mr EVERINGHAM: Mr Speaker, I would like to answer a question that was asked of me. The question, as it has been noted to me, is firstly: is it true that conditions of service have not yet been settled for new recruits in the Northern Territory Public Service? Secondly, does he - that's me - anticipate that conditions of service for new recruits will vary from those applying to officers transferring from the Australian Public Service?

The answer to the first question is no. Bylaws setting out the terms and conditions of service have been made by the Public Service Commissioner. I have a copy of these bylaws here. I will not table them because I cannot see much point in having them noted and having divisions or anything else.

The second answer is yes. Transferred employees have entrenched rights

to retain the conditions of service applying at the date of transfer. New recruits are subject to all the provisions of the Northern Territory Public Service Ordinance and the non-discriminatory provisions of that ordinance do require some changes from current Australian Public Service conditions. It could also be expected that, as our Northern Territory Public Service develops, conditions of service appropriate to work in the Northern Territory will be developed.

- 773 Mr TUXWORTH: I wish to answer a question asked of me yesterday by the honourable member for Arnhem who sought information concerning the rehabilitation at Rum Jungle.

I have been advised by the department that a substantial amount of rehabilitation work has been completed at Rum Jungle, comprising the clean-up of the former treatment plant site and nearby areas. The next stage will involve programs to rehabilitate some of the major overburden, waste rock and tailing dump sites and the open cuts. A working group comprising officers of the Department of the Northern Territory, the Department of Construction, the Atomic Energy Commission and Conzinc Riotinto of Australia has been preparing detailed proposals and cost estimates for this work. I understand their recommendations are shortly to be considered by the federal government. Mr Speaker, it is not envisaged that any further work will be undertaken until the government's decision on the working group recommendations has been made.

INDEX TO QUESTIONS

7 June - 16 June 1978

Aboriginal unemployment benefits (Isaacs) 372
 AGLA, motion (Isaacs) 745
 Airfares, tertiary students (Harris) 682A
 Airport facilities (Oliver) 685A
 Alyangula health centre (Collins) 671
 Anaesthetist services, Gove (Ballantyne) 725
 Apprentice, training (Dondas) 670
 Arafura Hostel, rehabilitation centre (O'Neil) 646
 Auvergne Station, land acquisition (Doolan) 640
 "Back to Darwin", visitors (Harris) 715
 Bank overdraft rate (O'Neil) 581
 Beef quota, NT abattoirs (Perkins) 683A
 Berry Springs School, telephone (Doolan) 728, 775
 Bicycle tracks (Padgham-Purich) 751
 Bore tax (Doolan) 673
 Bus routes, Darwin (D'Rozario) 780
 Caravans on town allotments (Padgham-Purich) 633
 Casuarina Hospital laboratory (Dondas) 658
 Casuarina library (D'Rozario) 723
 Cattle industry, national inquiry (Vale) 798
 Charters Towers, student airfares (Oliver) 679
 Churchill Fellowship Trustees (O'Neil) 738
 City council, land purchase (Harris) 797
 Civic centre, Alice Springs (Perkins) 339
 Commonwealth State Housing agreement (D'Rozario) 664
 Community Access Centre Alice Springs (Perkins) 666
 Cyclone Tracy Relief Trust Fund, chairman (Lawrie) 808
 Daly River flooding (Padgham-Purich) 648
 Darwin High School, speed restrictions (Harris) 735
 Darwin Hospital, future use (Harris) 637
 Day care centre (O'Neil) 681
 DCA workshops, land use (O'Neil) 686
 Department of Construction, transferred functions (Perkins) 730, (Isaacs) 713
 Dental units, Anula and Wulagi schools (Dondas) 674
 Dogs, Humpty Doo dump (O'Neil) 628
 Dog nuisance, Dr Hill's papers (D'Rozario) 811
 Door to door selling (Harris) 674A
 Drilling, Mines Branch (Ballantyne) 385
 Dripstone High School, theatre (Lawrie) 667
 Drugs, child education (Dondas) 647
 Education, allowance Gove (Ballantyne) 774
 Education, function transfer (O'Neil) 719
 Electrical funding, Malak I (Harris) 635
 Electricity consumption -
 commercial (Isaacs) 421
 domestic (Isaacs) 422
 Electricity off-peak tariffs (Dondas) 665
 Electricity rates (Isaacs) 381, (Harris) 668
 Electricity supply, Larrimah (Isaacs) 383
 Employment assistance by member (O'Neil) 782
 ESU workshops (Isaacs) 799
 Ethnic groups, education (Dondas) 733
 Fares, student nurses (Lawrie) 731
 Fire Brigade, cadets (Padgham-Purich) 718
 Firearms registration (Isaacs) 621
 Fishing licences (Collins) 755
 Fishing zone, poaching (Doolan) 655
 Fitness course, Assembly members (Padgham-Purich) 641
 Food Standards Bill (Harris) 685
 Forestry, NT report (Harris) 639, (Collins) 739, 783, 801
 Glass louvres, school contract (Collins) 651
 Good Neighbour Council, funding (Isaacs) 734

INDEX TO QUESTIONS
7 June - 16 June 1978

Government blocks, clean up (Harris) 650
Government Printer, priorities (Isaacs) 781
Health Commission, establishment NT (Dondas) 631
Health Department, nursing sisters (Doolan) 722, 736
Health services (O'Neil) 714
Historical building, restoration (Harris) 747
Home Building Society, interest rates (Isaacs) 653
Homemaker services (O'Neil) 796
Hospital accommodation, Darwin (O'Neil) 726
House demolition (Harris) 729
Housing Commission, rents (D'Rozario) 756
Howard Springs School, fence (Padgham-Purich) 802
Hydro-electric power, Mt Nancar (Padgham-Purich) 682
Land applications (D'Rozario) 748, 750, 752
Land purchase, city council (Lawrie) 654, 684, 720, 769, 777, 784, (Harris) 797
Land rates (Harris) 776
"Life be In It" (Ballantyne) 753
Licence plates, new (Dondas) 629
Licence to keep native birds (Collins) 779
Litter fines (D'Rpzario) 657
Local Government Ordinance, revision (Perkins) 644
Lot 620, office construction (D'Rozario) 746
Markets, milking cattle (Padgham-Purich) 744
Mental defectives (O'Neil) 374
Mental Defectives Ordinance (O'Neil) 642
Mining exploration licence, Nabarlek (Perkins) 483
Mining exploration licence, Urengesellschaft (Collins) 807
Mining exploration licences (Perkins) 615
Mt Nancar dam, investigations (Padgham-Purich) 648
Mushrooms (Padgham-Purich) 809
Myilly Point, land use (Harris) 763
Nabalco, agreement (Isaacs) 805
Nabalco, extension cost (Doolan) 681A
National Parks management (Perkins) 616
Noxious weed control (Padgham-Purich) 624
Nurses, applications (Lawrie) 724, 731
Nursing-aid courses, Gove (Ballantyne) 689
Orthodontic charges (Oliver) 672
Palmerston House (O'Neil) 678A
Performing arts complex (O'Neil) 812
Piggery (Harris) 721
Pine Creek Race Club (D'Rozario) 619
Pistol licences, Gove (Ballantyne) 645
Police commissioner -
 applicants (Isaacs) 813
 appointment (Ballantyne) 806
Police Headquarters, fountain (Padgham-Purich) 684A
Police recruitment, applications (Dondas) 671A
Power Station - East Arm (Doolan) 659
Practical education (Oliver) 677A
Prisoners -
 hospitalisation (Dondas) 749
 letters (O'Neil) 800
Public service conditions (Isaacs) 717
Public works committee (Lawrie) 482
Quarantine reserve, relocation (D'Rozario) 649
Quarrying operations (D'Rozario) 803
Rehabilitation centre (Dondas) 643, (Harris) 804
Railway housing repairs (O'Neil) 749
Rum Jungle, restoration (Collins) 773
Rural education (Padgham-Purich) 687
Self-government, funding (Isaacs) 630, 632, 634

INDEX TO QUESTIONS

7 June - 16 June 1978

Show Society, financial assistance (D'Rozario) 687A
South road (Oliver) 673A
SPCA grant (D'Rozario) 683
SPCA kennels, use by Council (D'Rozario) 688
Sporting organisations, assistance (Dondas) 737
Stone refacing, historic building (D'Rozario) 675A, 803
Stuart Highway, 14 mile maintenance (Padgham-Purich) 680A
Students, air charter (Oliver) 679
Taxi dispute (Harris) 660
Taxi fares (Harris) 608
Taxi plates, policy of (Isaacs) 306
Taxing bookmakers (D'Rozario) 636
Teacher service (Padgham-Purich) 662
Telephone, Berry Springs School (Doolan) 728, 775
Territory image (Collins) 675
Todd River bridge, approaches (Oliver) 770
Tourist Board -
 research finding (Isaacs) 766
 selection (Perkins) 778
 staff travel (Perkins) 768
Tourist Bureau -
 Cairns office (O'Neil) 761, 762, 764
 head office (Perkins) 760, 767
Tourist industry, staff training (Dondas) 652
Tourists to NT (Perkins) 772
Town Planning appeals, Mr Crisp (O'Neil) 810
Tradesman employed in NT (O'Neil) 369
Traffic Committee (D'Rozario) 382
Transport, rural area (Padgham-Purich) 751
Treatment facilities, alcoholics and drug users (Dondas) 643
Tropic Carvan Park, tenancy termination 676A
Tropical flowers, markets (Padgham-Purich) 765
Trower Road, pedestrian crossing (Isaacs) 672A, 754, 771
Unemployment, self-service petrol stations (Isaacs) 656
Welfare assistance to Aborigines (O'Neil) 375
Welfare funds, Service Development Branch (O'Neil) 379
Weedicides (O'Neil) 743
Willeroo project (Isaacs) 380, 574, 627, 638 (Doolan) 640, 661, 663, 669, 678, 680, 727
Wolf Sylvia, statements (Perkins) 670A
Workers, accident statistics (Doolan) 688A
World Environment Day (Collins) 686A
Yirrkala, road sealing (Collins) 679A